

## NO Alcohol NO Drugs

The Understanding to Become Free from the Bondage of Addiction



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## Editorial

Every living being is in search of happiness. Every person spends his/her entire life making an effort to acquire happiness. But after so many efforts are we really happy?

In today's society, we see that a lot of youngsters get addicted to smoking, tobacco and alcohol. Without thinking about the bad effects that will come in the future, a lot of youngsters fall into addiction in order to have fun or reduce stress.

An addiction has serious effects on a person's social, mental and economic state. Youngsters become slaves to the very addiction that they think will give them happiness. And that addiction eventually becomes the cause of their dependency and suffering.

Friends, this edition of Akram Youth is for those youngsters who have the illusion that there is happiness in smoking, tobacco and alcohol. In this edition, we will discuss about the social demon of addiction. We will also receive the understanding from Pujyashree about how to come out of this bondage. We hope that this edition will show the path to those youngsters who wish to be free from the dangers of addiction. Human life is the greatest and extremely rare, so let's benefit from it.

- Dimple Mehta

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# Wrong Beliefs about Drinking

If we have any bad habits, then we will have to come out of them someday and destroy them from the root. For example, the addiction of drinking alcohol... We have to do two things to remove it from the root. (1) Accept that we are addicted to something "I have become addicted to this thing and I really want to get out of it." (2) Investigate the causes behind the addiction.

People drink alcohol for many different reasons. Many of these reasons are mere excuses which can be considered a kind of illusion or wrong belief. Let's see how these beliefs arise and how one can get rid of them.

## Belief : Alcohol helps reduce my stress and worries.

One feels stress-free for some time after drinking alcohol. But, as the effect of the alcohol starts fading away, the same stress comes back with greater force, making matters worse. This stress causes him to want to drink alcohol again. And before he knows it, he has gone from being an occasional drinker to an alcoholic! The situation becomes so bad that he ends up losing his selfrespect as well.



For example: When an ostrich is scared, it puts its head in the sand. By doing this, it can no longer see the danger in front of it and it believes that the danger no longer exists. But in reality, the danger is still there. So we can say that alcohol is not a solution for stress and worries.

## Belief : I want to try new things in life.

Some people drink alcohol thinking, 'I want to try something new.' While others drink it thinking, 'Let me at least taste it to see why people are so crazy about it.' They choose to drink it to find this out. Would such people be ready to try anything new? For example, would anyone wonder, 'What does poison taste like? Let me try some.' Or 'Let me take an acid bath?' No! Because its results are immediately seen. Whereas, alcohol destroys a person slowly. Isn't anything that destroys a person considered a poison?! It may kill you immediately or slowly, but poison should never be tasted, should it?

## Belief : A person looks 'cool' when he drinks.

Many respected personalities have been defamed due to drinking alcohol. Many a times, a drunk person ends up doing something that destroys his reputation. For example, he may end up doing something loathsome or he may kill someone by drinking and driving. If someone were to call you an alcoholic, would you feel 'cool' or would you take it as an insult? It is worth thinking about it. This human life is attained after doing so many good deeds. Drinking destroys all our abilities and makes us lose our humanity. In order to prevent our awareness and intellectual capability from decreasing, it is necessary to avoid drinking alcohol.

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## Belief : Everyone drinks and there's nothing wrong in drinking alcohol

I have one question for the one who lives in this illusion. "Who told you that there is nothing wrong in drinking? Yes...It must have been someone who drinks, right?" Your answer must be 'yes'. Friends, we should understand that a thief would never say, "It is a bad thing to steal."



## Belief: My entire friend circle drinks alcohol



If someone drinks alcohol in their friend circle, then without doing anything else, they should ask themselves one question. "Would I like to be known as someone who is part of a gang of drunkards?" There will only be one answer to this, 'no'. That is because it ruins one's reputation. One should definitely contemplate what kind of expectation he can keep for those people who are on the path of immorality.

## Belief : There is an atmosphere of drinking alcohol where I live

We should understand that the steering wheel of our life is in our hands, so we shouldn't let anyone else steer us. It is our responsibility to decide what is good or bad for us. It is also our responsibility to decide what to accept from our environment.



# For Youth Monthly Magazine



Of the Youth, By the Youth, For the Youth



# Moral Story

his happened a few years ago. Munishree Saiyamchand was travelling from one village to another. He was very famous because he was a senior of the ashram and a loved disciple of the Gurushree. He was welcomed with a lot of respect to whichever village he went. One day, his Guru sent him a message asking him to return to the Ashram as soon as possible. Upon receiving the message, he swiftly began his journey. Night had fallen and the ashram was still very far, but he continued onwards. He came upon a village. In the village center, he saw some people having fun and drinking alcohol. Seeing Munishree, they began to greet him one by one. One of them took Munishree's hand and sat him down on a stool. Everyone became joyful and began serving him. They said, "We won't let you go away from here. You will have to accept our hospitality." Then they offered him alcohol, meat and called beautiful women to keep him entertained. Munishree requested them and tried to leave, but being drunk, they wouldn't let him. One of them said, "Munishree, you have insulted us by not accepting our hospitality. You will have to accept at least one of these things." Munishree thought, "I want to reach the Ashram but these people are not leaving me. What should I do? Indulging in illicit sex and meat will take one to hell. Alcohol is also bad, but since it is made from the extract of plants, it is not as dangerous."

So, due to their insistence, he drank some alcohol. He thought that he could drink a little bit and be on his way, but each person began insisting, "You must have some served by me." They kept serving him and he kept drinking. That night, due to his intoxication, he ended up eating meat and enjoying illicit sex.

A saint who could control his anger-pride-deceit-greed ended up having such a grave spiritual downfall.



That is why Revered Dadashri says, "Alcohol and sexuality bring very heavy veils over the Knowledge of the Self. So be very aware. Alcohol is such that even the awareness that 'I am Chandubhai' is lost! So, the Soul will definitely be forgotten! The Lord has said to be afraid of it. It doesn't touch the one who has the complete experience of the Self, yet it has the potential to uproot even the knowledge imparted by the Lord! This is how dangerous it is!"

## We saw how harmful it is to consume alcohol. Now let's see how dangerous it is for those close to us.

It is around 9 or 10 o'clock at night when the phone rings. "Hey bro! The farewell party is over!" says his younger sister on the phone. She is laughing so insanely as if someone has given her the position of Prime Minister overnight! She continues, "I was leaving to return home but this scaredy-cat Suhana isn't letting me. She says that you can't drink and drive. Bro, please tell her to let me leave." The brother is shocked and immediately tells her, "No!.. Stay with Suhana. I am coming to pick you up." While on the phone, he starts searching for his car keys. But the call drops. He tries calling two, three, four more times, but the phone is switched off.



Google Maps shows it will take 24 minutes to reach. "I want to bring my sister back the way she left." With this thought in his mind, he starts racing against Google Maps. "It's good if Suhana is with her. Otherwise, being amongst boys in her situation...? Her friends must be good people, but after having some drinks, everyone loses their senses? What if someone takes advantage of her? So many things could happen! What if my sister ends up in tomorrow's paper or on the news? What if vulgar photos of her go viral on the internet? What if she develops an intense hatred towards men? Oh God! Why does it seem like the destination is getting farther and farther? Oh Lord, please protect my sister and be with her." With all of these thoughts racing through his mind, he reaches his destination in 18 minutes, beating Google's estimate. He is relieved to see that his sister is safe.



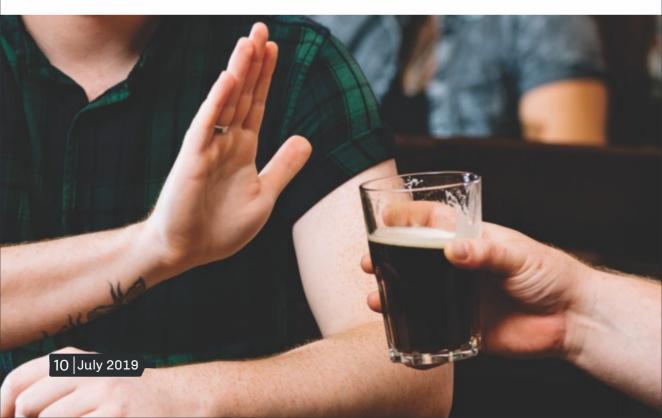
## **Unacceptable in Society**

Society doesn't approve of alcohol consumption because of its bad effects. Various surveys conducted at different times have shown the following effects of alcoholism

- 1) Domestic violence
- 2) Worsening economic conditions
- 3) Mental pressure on children
- 4) Increased sickness and hospital visits

These and many other bad effects of alcoholism have resulted in problems.

If we look at the results of various surveys conducted in Bihar after 2016, when alcohol was banned there, we will see some very surprising results. A 20% reduction in domestic violence towards women, a 13% reduction in riots and a 10% reduction in traffic accidents. On the other hand, a 10% growth in milk sales, a 200% growth in cheese sales, a 30% growth in two-wheeler sales and a 50% growth in electrical appliance sales. The earthen huts in villages have slowly been replaced by brick houses and the economy has begun to pick up.



## **Unacceptable in Spirituality**

The most widespread religions of the world like Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, etc., despite being so different from each other, have unequivocally supported staying away from alcohol.



1) Drinking alcohol violates the fifth of the five tenets of the Buddha Samhita (a scripture containing the fundamental principles of **Buddhism**). Drinking alcohol destroys a person's ability to think and creates hurdles in his spiritual progress.



2) **Hinduism** is a spiritual tradition whose principles are based on the laws of nature. If we analyze it at the subtle level, the main reason to avoid alcohol is its adverse effects on the mind and body.



3) **Jainism**, which has a foundation of non-violence and vegetarianism, can never allow drinking alcohol, because innumerable living beings are killed in the process of making it.



4) **Sikhism** considers the consumption of stimulants, intoxicants, alcohol, cigarettes, and anything that damages the body as a sin, and therefore prohibits their use.



5) **Islam** also prohibits alcohol because it weakens the mindintellect-chit-ego complex of a faithful and religious person. In the Quran, Khuda has said that drinking alcohol and gambling are worse than a demon and therefore worth renouncing.

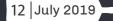
## **Drugs and Alcohol - Unacceptable in Sports**

Sports is synonymous with sportsmanship. There are strict laws prohibiting recreational drugs and alcohol in sports. There have been many cases of drug use in the Olympics and other competitive sporting events. Many famous athletes who had clinched a gold medal or a trophy for their country or team, had to return it after failing to pass an anti-doping test, because they had consumed alcohol or drugs. Consequently, they ended up ruining their career and their reputation.

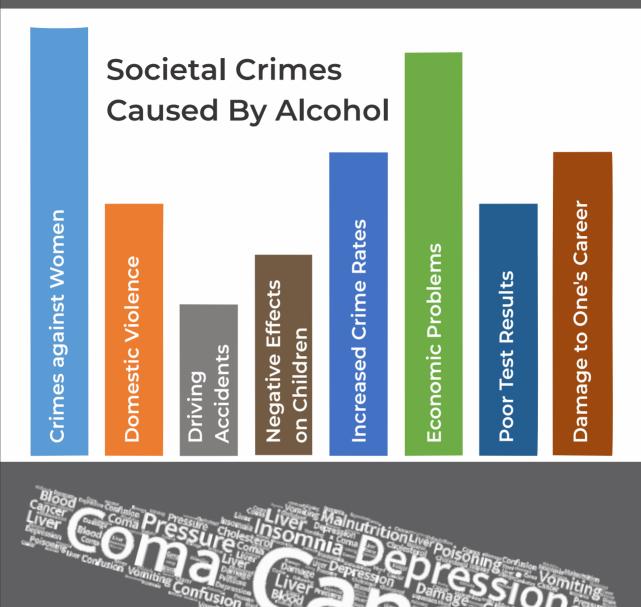
Let's take a test, where you will decide whether such a situation would be acceptable to you or not?

- $\_$ \_1.You are travelling by bus and come to know that the driver is drunk.
- 2.At the police station, an on-duty police officer is drunk.
- □\_\_\_3.At college, a professor is teaching his students while drunk.
- □\_\_\_4.You are out shopping and the salesman is drunk.
- **\_\_\_\_**5.You are about to have a major operation and the surgeon arrives drunk.
- □\_6.Workers in your own company are coming to work drunk.

After reading all of these situations, one thing is clear; that no one would accept them. So, do you think that anyone would accept you if you were to consume alcohol or drugs?



## The Bad Effects of Alcohol



Diseases Caused By Alcohol

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# **Financial Consequences**

Many people lose their jobs due to alcohol, which results in financial hardships for their family.

## List of Expenses

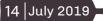
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One day's expense on alcohol	3 pegs per day = 400/-
weekly expense, if consumed 5 times	400/- X 5 days = 2000/- per week
monthly expense for 4 weeks	2000/- X 4 weeks = 8000/- per month
Annual expense	8000/- X 12 months = 96000/- per year

Miscellaneous expenses = Healthcare fees + Taxi fares + Waiter's tips

## Summary : A huge financial loss

You can see that nothing is credited to the balance sheet of someone who drinks alcohol and the debts keep on adding up. A drunkard eventually suffers a loss in the end.





## The Effects on One's Spiritual Wellbeing



**Questioner:** They say that if a person has been drinking and using drugs for a long time, that it will affect his mind and the effects will last for a long time afterwards. How can one become free from such chronic effects?

**Dadashri:** These remaining effects are the reactions from the addiction. All the sub-atomic particles within the body need to be cleansed. Once the drinking stops, what should he do then? He needs to keep repeating to himself that it is wrong to drink. He should never say that drinking alcohol is good. He must be absolutely convinced that drinking alcohol is wrong and that it is harmful. In this way he will be free from his addiction. If he ever supports the drinking by thinking or saying that there is no harm in it, he will suffer a relapse.

**Questioner:** What damage does alcohol cause to the brain?

**Dadashri:** The alcohol makes you lose awareness. When you drink alcohol your awareness is shrouded by the veils of ignorance. These veils of ignorance will accumulate and never leave. You may believe that they have dispersed, but they instead become denser and will turn you into a dull and ineffective individual. You will not be able to think positively or clearly. Those who have managed to overcome their addiction to alcohol have developed a positive attitude and thinking.

**Questioner:** Once the alcohol has created this veil over the awareness, how canit be removed?

Dadashri: There is no solution for that. Time is the only remedy. The longer a person abstains from drinking alcohol, the clearer his thinking will be as the veils of ignorance disperse. He will begin to notice the difference as time goes by, but not immediately. Understand that pleasure derived from eating meat and consuming alcohol will have to be repaid. The repayment for this will be that in his next life, he will have to take birth in a lower life form, in the plant and animal kingdom. Every form of external happiness one enjoys will have to be repaid, so one must understand the gravity of this obligation. The world is not haphazard; it will demand a repayment. Only the experience of one's inner bliss does not need to be repaid. So remember, you will have to pay back whatever you borrow!

**Questioner:** A person will have to repay it as an animal in his next life, but what are the consequences of eating meat and drinking alcohol in this life?

**Dadashri:** In this life his ignorance will increase. As a result he will become callous and beastly. People around him will not give him any respect.



Youngsters are the future of this country and the driver behind its growth. If this youthful energy is destroyed at an early age, then this country's future will not be bright. The easiest way to divert youth in the wrong direction is addiction to drugs and other intoxicating substances. If the youth of this country, which number in the tens of millions, get entrenched in its web, it will destroy the nation's progress.

Drug dealers sell drugs for free in the beginning, to attract customers. Then once the youngsters become addicted, they start charging money for the drugs.

Since the youngsters cannot buy these costly drugs, incidents of theft, violence and murder increase in their society. Because of drugs, their valuable time goes to waste and it destroys their awareness and constructive energies. The effect of this addiction that spreads among the youth, also reaches their village, city and industry. If a major proportion of the youth in a state are addicted to drugs, then it has very adverse effects on its economic wellbeing, peace, growth and prestige.

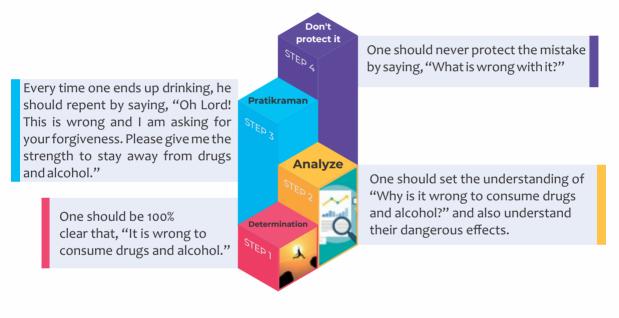
We are very fortunate to have been born in India (or of Indian descent), whose

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people have the highest level of spiritual development. India's youth have so much pride for their country, that they are ready to fight to protect its piousness! If you want to fight, then why not fight against drugs? So let's say "NO" to drugs. If one youngster changes, then seeing him, 10 more will change. Seeing those 10, 100 more will change, and like this, a transformation will take place.

So let's say "NO" to drugs and create such positive vibrations that spread everywhere and take our country in the right direction. If you don't consume alcohol, drugs or any other intoxicating substances that harm you, your family and your country, then "Well done!" Now, gather the courage to strongly say "NO" if anyone pressures you in the future, and stay far away from this poison.

But, if someone has become addicted to drugs, then they can become free from this weakness by following the four steps given by Dada Bhagwan.



You cannot say, "Why is it made? Therefore, there is nothing wrong with drinking it." You should accept that, "It is my weakness, my mistake. I am doing wrong and I want the strength to be free of this bad habit." If you say this, then the bad habit will slowly leave. If you are not able to do it yourself, then come to me with a firm determination and it will leave after we give you our blessings.

A single Indian child possesses so much strength, that he can lift the weight of the entire world. He only needs to be nurtured. ~ Dadashri



# Excerpts from Dadashri's Book



#### From a Spiritual Level to the Wrong Path

Otherwise he was exceptional, lion-like. Outside, Motabhai (my elder brother) was considered a Lion, but he had these bad habits, and that is why he would not be valued at all. He had a habit of drinking Brandy. When he drank, he would lose his senses. How can you value him as a human? Once he drank, he was done for. No matter how good one's personality, if he has this habit, he is done for.

**Questioner:** But Dada, one's original power does not go away, does it?

**Dadashri:** His power did not go away, but he had a habit of drinking, so people rejected him. They didn't want to give him importance, so in the name of this habit, they rejected him saying, "Don't listen to him, he drinks."

Questioner: Dada, was his spiritual level high?

Dadashri: He went from a spiritual level to this wrong path. If This One Bad Habit Wasn't There, Then...

Manibhai's picking up a habit of drinking was the bad thing that happened. He did it out of arrogance, and he showed arrogance in doing so, otherwise we have never had a Patel like him in our village.

Many people in our village said, 'There is only one brave man in the entire community. If it wasn't for this bad habit, he would be the greatest man in our village. If he didn't drink he would have made the community proud.'

**Questioner:** Yes, he would have made them proud. But did he drink a little or a lot?

**Dadashri:** A lot. Sometimes he used to drink too much. He would forget his hat too. Chhotabhai (my younger brother) told Motabhai, 'Manibhai, if you didn't have this addiction you would have been considered the greatest leader of this village.' But everything was ruined when he picked up that habit.

#### Due to Brother's Bad Habit, There Was a Shortage of Money

Manibhai was such a good man, like someone from a royal family. If he had [what you needed], he would give it to you. He didn't care for money. The business was big and good, the income was very good, but he had a bad habit of drinking alcohol.

**Questioner:** That is the case with many Patels, Dada. **Dadashri:** This brother was like royalty, so he had the

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freedom to do so. A lion has all the freedom, doesn't he? In the lineage of a lion, one has the freedom, doesn't he?

#### Questioner: Yes, he does.

**Dadashri:** Motabhai used to drink a lot, so for five to ten years, we struggled for money. So in the 'kingdom' of Motabhai (when he was running the house), we had to struggle, but then later we didn't. Thereafter, wherever I stuck my hand, I kept getting money. We used to make a lot of money in the business, but with brother's drinking problem, how could we save any? We had a good income, but where there is alcohol, money doesn't belong. And brother used to spend fifty to one hundred rupees a day on alcohol.

#### Questioner: Wow!

**Dadashri:** My brother had to have forty to fifty rupees for a bottle of liquor each day. How could we afford such a business? He needed a fifty-rupee bottle, and it had to be an imported brand. So how could we save any money? How much income would one have in those days, in 1930-1933?

**Questioner:** Fifty rupees was a lot, like five thousand rupees today.

**Dadashri:** So, all the income went into his drinking. The house and everything had to be pledged, even the land in Tarsaali. We pledged 2.5 acres of land in the village and 1.6 acres in Tarsaali, along with the house and everything else.

#### Finally, He Stopped Drinking and Started Fasting

Manibhai was a lucky man, but what can one do? He too died very young! **Questioner:** At what age?

**Dadashri:** Fifty years of age. His body was finished, because he was fasting at that time; thirty-one times. So he died from fasting. Fasting didn't help.

Questioner: So Manibhai fasted?

Dadashri: He did thirty-one fasts, drinking only water.

Questioner: Is that like santharo (fasting till death)?

**Dadashri:** Would he do santharo? He was one to keep a grudge. He did whatever he felt in his mind. He wouldn't listen to anyone!

Questioner: But why did he fast, Dada?

**Dadashri:** He fasted because he felt that, 'I have subatomic particles of alcohol in this body. I want to cleanse them all.' So, he did it to purify his body. He was drinking alcohol, right? So, he wanted all the poison to be removed from the body.

However, he did stop drinking alcohol. He did so on his own, two years earlier. Thereafter, he started fasting. He became like a saint, because he had a super brain. So to make changes to the body, to make the body merit worthy, to wash off the demerit karma, he did thirty-one fasts.







Experience" I was born into a wealthy family and from my childhood, my parents ensured that I be brought up with good moral values. But as Dadashri says, "One can become a thief by a thief's grace and a Gnani by a Gnani's grace." I became spoiled by falling into the wrong company. To be honest, just to show that "I am something", to create an impression in front of everyone, and to show that I am modern, I used to drive around till late at night, go to parties and do everything that my friends told me to. It wasn't anything new for me to freely spend money for my friends. If my mom and dad tried to stop me, then I would get irritated, argue with them and throw tantrums. My friends seemed to be the only ones dear to me. In a

short time, I became addicted to drugs with my friends. I made sure not to let drugs enter my house. But one day, I left a packet of drugs in my pant pocket and my mom found it. My

parents put a lot of restrictions on me, refusing to give me any money. They even informed my friends' parents. I was so badly addicted to drugs that I could not remain without them. I experienced a lot of weakness and intense body pains. I literally begged for drugs. My parents tried a lot to take me to the doctor but I wasn't ready and threatened to kill myself. This continued for some time. My health deteriorated even more and my parents finally started to give me drugs. Around this time, my mom got to know about Pujyashree Deepakbhai and the Knowledge of the Self on T.V. She took Gnan and started praying for me according to Pujyashree's guidance. Gradually, I became ready to visit the

Nearly six months have passed since then. My treatment is still going on and I am doing much better now. I still quiver when I doctor and started my treatment. remember the helplessness that I had experienced in the last six months. My mom and dad have made huge efforts to bring me out of this difficult situation. For this, I am deeply thankful to them and to Pujya Deepakbhai.

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#### By Dada's Youth

Abi daarunaa dariyaamaa dubi gayelaao ni kbub laambi che yaadi... Paisaa jay, pad jay, pratishtaa jay sarvaale vadhe barbaadi... Patnie vagar vaanke khaadhelaa maar, roj varasti dikaraanaa aansu ni dhaar... Pinaaraa ne to kai yaad pan nathi, kori paati jevi pade che eni savaar... Modern, smart and 4G yuvaanomaa pan daaru pivaani fashion chaale che... Bichaaraa junaa radio jevaa maa-baapmaa chintaanu station chaale che... Kai chinta daaruthi jay?  $\mathcal E$  to khaali nashaamaa nindar aavi jay... Savaare utbi e paristbiti fari aavshe, saamno karvo ej upaay... Shu jene daaru pitaa shikhvaadyu e cancer vakhate sevaa karvaa aavshe?? Saaheb, e pan lathadiyaa khaay che, aamaa kon kone bachaavshe? Junu ochu padtu'tu aamne? Ke navi pedhi navu drugs shodhi laavi... Chutvaanu na pade tekaanu, ne bandbaavaanaa navaa upaay goti aave... Saankalthi baandhelu hadkaayu kutru, 'drugs'thi baalat kai evi thaay... Himat raakhi joshthi kaho, "Have mane na poshaay aa laachaari." "Friend circle'maa rahevaa levu pade" aa to vali kyaani samajdaari? Evaa 'circle'ma to jaavu j shu kaam? Jeni nikalvaani che naadaari... Adhyaatmaa pan kabe "Agnaanni jaagruti rabe nabi, gnaanni shu raakbsbe?" Pi gayaa pachi e aakhu ye gnaan, gatarmaa vahoraavi naakhshe...

# **Gnani with Youth**

**Questioner:** Sometime back, I became addicted to cigarettes and then I got into the habit of tobacco, alcohol and dirty films. But I don't want to do any of these anymore.

**Pujyashree:** But you have come out of all this now, haven't you? Did you stop all this?

### Questioner: Yes.

Pujyashree: Don't ever start them again. This is not suitable for cultured people.



They will destroy your heart, lungs, etc. Your chit will be spoiled and your future lives will also be spoiled. So now decide that you definitely don't want any of this. We have shibirs here, there is a satsang center in Mumbai. Try to get involved in seva there, stay in touch with the satsang group, and you will slowly make friends there. Even while studying, you should sit with good friends.

Questioner: But there is bad company in my classes and everywhere else.

**Pujyashree:** That's going to be there. We have to take care of ourselves. We should wear protection when going out. Just like we use a raincoat and an umbrella when it rains. In this way, before going out, ask for Dada's protection in the form of strength. "I don't want to fall into any bad company. Give me strength so that I don't lose my good values. May I keep my focus on my studies and may my life go in Dada's seva." Ask for this. Make a decision from now on.









**Questioner:** I am making the effort, but I still make mistakes. The intellect interferes a lot.

**Pujyashree:** The chit enjoys all the activities which take one to a lower life form. Like climbing up, if one wants to go to a higher life form, he feels tired. And how long does it take to slip and fall down?

#### Questioner: No time.

**Pujyashree:** Right... It would take 10 minutes to climb 200 steps and after getting pushed just once, one would fall down in a second. The inner tendencies and the pudgal like this business of falling. But we should be strong and oppose the prakruti. "No, I don't want to go on the wrong path. Dada, please give me strength, save me." All of you should try to meet in Mumbai, make a nice friend circle and join YMHT. All of you stay together now, okay?

#### Questioner: Yes, Pujyashree.

**Pujyashree:** Make a decision. Dada's blessings will save us. Our life will not be spoiled.

Quesitoner: Yes, Pujyashree. Jai Sat Chit Anand.



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