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Editorial

Dearest Friends,

"Moha khavdaave maar (Moha makes one take a beating)", is a Gujarati saying we all must have heard many times. But what is called moha? To wear new clothes, to go sightseeing, to watch movies, to go eat out, to watch T.V., to play games on your mobile phone and computer, etc., etc... This list can go on and on! All of these are types of moha and we are all invariably drowning in the ocean of moha. You may feel, 'These are our daily activities, so how can they be called moha?'

But every action of ours happens under the control of one moha or the other. It is a wonder that we do not even realize it! Now, if we do not even know about moha, then it is natural that we will be oblivious to the beatings it causes us. A humble attempt has been made in this edition of Akram Youth to explain the various beatings we have to take while under the control of moha and how to remain in the bliss of freedom by not becoming stuck in its trap.

- Dimple Mehta

What is Moha?

Friends, let's play a game.

Step 1: Take a cricket or baseball bat.

Step 2: Make a small circle around you and place an item such as God's statue or a (symbol of) your goal 15 feet away from it.

Step 3: Now, stand inside the circle as shown in the picture.

Step 4: Touch your forehead to the bat as shown in the picture. Then with eyes closed, make 10 circles around the bat.

Step 5: After completing 10 circles, stop. Open your eyes and immediately try to touch the item, which you had kept 15 feet away.

Were you able to walk those 15 feet?









Just as we had concentrated all of our attention on the bat and rotated around it, in our lives, we also run around money, a girlfriend, a boyfriend, fame, status, authority, etc... And all this running makes us so blind that we become unable to achieve spiritual progress, humanity or peace and happiness.

This alcohol in the form of moha affects us to such an extent that we cannot see the truth despite having eyes!

So, what is moha?? Chandubhai is really a great person. We can see that. But what if he were to drink some alcohol? He would say, "I am a King, I am this and I am that." Then we know that he is intoxicated. This is considered as being intoxicated by moha. This is indeed what we call moha.

Moha means unawareness. Unawareness is to not know, who "one" is. Moha is to not be able to see " as it is" and rather to see "that which is not".

Moha has been given many other names such as illusion, blindness, unawareness, intense darkness and the sweetness (of illusion).



15 feet





Akrampedia



Name : Ayush Mehta Age : 19

Hello Friends,

With the hope that you must be enjoying reading the blogs that I write, I have again brought something for you today!

This happened about six months ago. My college friend Krutaarth and I went to Juhu Beach to take a stroll. He gave me a shock as soon as we met, by showing me a photo of our classmate Vrunda and saying, "I love her."

Before I could react, he said, "We have been in a relationship for the last six months. We have not told anyone yet, but today I am telling you."

I cautiously asked, "So are you really serious about her?" He got irritated upon hearing my question.

"You first tell me, what is love? And why do you feel that what we both have for each other can only be love?" Ignoring his anger, I asked him another question.

"My friend, love is when you remember her all day long, you have thoughts about what she likes and what she doesn't like and you behave in accordance with that. It is when you feel her sorrow is your sorrow..."

Krutaarth added further, "Do you know that when I take her out and buy her things that she likes, the happiness on her face makes my day better? From "Good Morning and Good Night" to "What did you eat? What did you drink? What did you wear?" We share everything, no matter how small. Now you tell me, is this not love?"

"Do you really think this is love? And how do you know that Vrunda is also serious about you?"

"Vrunda told me and I trust her." Krutaarth said confidently.

Ladvised him, "Look my friend; it brings me joy to see you happy. But I am just scared that she might break your heart. Don't you know what happened to our seniors Aneesh and Radha? Poor Aneesh has gone into depression. I am not saying

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that this will also happen to you, but first test whether the person who you are thinking about so much, is really worthy of your affection?"

Krutaarth didn't give any response, so I opened an E-book of Dada's on my phone and gave it to him to read....

If a person has a lot of attachment due to illusion, that attachment will go away if that person experiences a lot of suffering. It was only a false attachment, an illusion to begin with, and this is the cause of suffering.



There is Deceit and Pain in Moha!

Questioner: What is the difference between the love of illusion and real love?

Dadashri: This moth hovers around the flame and sacrifices its life in it. That is called the love of illusion, whereas real love will last. There is no illusion in real love.

A life of false attachment is useless. It is equivalent to being blind. It is like a blind man who wanders around like the moth and gets consumed in the process. Real love on the other hand is constant and it gives lifelong happiness. It does not seek instant gratification.

Therefore, all these are false attachments of illusory love. Everything is an illusion. Love of illusion is simply an open stroke of deceit.

Questioner: But how can an ordinary individual know the difference between real love and false love? How does the other person know whether one's love is real or false?

Dadashri: You will find out when you test it. It is best to test it before committing yourself. Just as we tap a rupee coin to test its authenticity, find an excuse to scold the other person and see their reaction. Nowadays selfishness is rampant. People will feign love for selfish motives. You should test it to see whether it is real love or not.

Questioner: Even when you scold... what is that real love like?

Dadashri: The one with such love will remain calm when scolded and take the utmost care not to hurt the offender. In the presence of such love, even a wicked person would melt and surrender.

After reading it, Krutaarth gave me the phone and said,

Everyone knows how rich you are, and yet, you still have a problem buying me a dress? It's good that I came to know about your stinginess this soon. Aman is better than you. He can't stand to see me cry. He stays awake the whole night and talks to me just to keep me happy....

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"Okay, then tell me what I should do."

We both made a decision that for a month, Krutaarth would only talk to Vrunda when absolutely needed and when Valentine's day comes in a few days, Krutaarth would not give her any gift, take her out or make any other unnecessary expenditures. And we decided to meet at the same place after a month.

We both met each other after a month at the same place.

It felt as if Krutaarth was not in a good mood. "I did what we had decided for a month. When I did not gift her anything on Valentine 's Day, she started sulking. So to cheer her up, I took her shopping. She liked a dress that was 2500 rupees. When I told her that I only had 1500 rupees and that she had to pay the other 1000 rupees, she threw the dress and left the store. After that, she didn't reply to my calls or messages for two days. When I tried to talk to her at college, she accused me of ignoring her and liking someone else. I tried a lot to explain to her, 'We both love each other. If we live in normality by caring for each other, then it would be so nice! Merely shopping, travelling or talking to each other is not love.' Upon hearing this, there was no limit to her anger. She said, 'Everyone knows how rich you are, and yet, you still have a problem buying me a dress? It's good that I came to know about your stinginess this soon. Aman is better than you. He can't stand to see me cry. He stays awake the whole night and talks to me just to keep me happy....' After hearing this, I left without saying another word. After a couple of days, I got the news that Vrunda and Aman were now together."

I felt really bad for Krutaarth. I didn't know what to tell him. But I was happy about one thing. That he now understood the difference between love and moha and that he was saved from a relationship that was formed on the basis of moha.



Moha has two children, namely attachment and abhorrence.

- Attachment-Abhorrence: If the chit (inner faculty of knowledge and vision) gets engrossed in likeable things, people or situations, then attachment arises and if the chit gets engrossed in unlikeable things, people or situations, then abhorrence arises. Where there is more attachment, deceit and greed increase and where there is more abhorrence, anger and pride increase.
- Deceit-Greed: If one gets as much as they want of things they like, yet the hunger to accumulate more does not decrease, that is called greed. When one's discretion between right and wrong disappears and when one projects happiness where there is none and enjoys that imaginary happiness, it is called deceit.
- **Anger-Pride:** When one is confronted with unfavorable circumstances and cannot do anything about it, anger arises. The belief "I am special" is called pride.

There are infinite varieties of moha. There is no end to it. It is such that one has to take one hundred thousand births to get rid of just one moha. Human life is indeed a storehouse of moha.



The Moha

Loud and heartfelt cries are heard from Ramankaka's house. He is usually a happy go lucky person. Along with C-58, the entire Sundervan society has gone into mourning. Everyone in the house is shocked to see the dead body of 33-yearold Akash. They are crying uncontrollably.

The time to perform the last rites of the young man has come. But they all are waiting for the Swamiji to arrive, someone they have had faith in for years.

Upon entering the house, Swamiji finds the entire family drowned in sorrow. Upon seeing him, Uma starts crying even louder.

"Swamiji, look what has happened to him... He has left me... Who will be there for me and Dhyan now??? No, I won't let him leave us like this. I will do anything to bring him back."

At that moment, the grandparents joined their hands and said in a very helpless tone, "Our son... Akash... at such a tender age!? Please do something Swamiji... Do anything you can to bring back our son..." Saying this, the grandfather fell at Swamiji's feet.

Seeing all this, even Dhyan starts to cry loudly. Swamiji tries a lot to console them but it all goes in vain... It is certainly not that easy to withstand such a shock!

Eventually Swamiji says, "Give me a

glass of water."

With the glass of water, he sits beside the dead body and starts chanting a mantra. After some time he says, "Whoever wishes for Akash to come back to life, should drink this water. Upon drinking this water, Akash will come to life again, but the person that drinks the water will die."

Upon hearing Swamiji's words, the environment becomes silent. "Who is ready to drink the water? Come forward quickly!"

Everyone starts looking at each other but no one comes forward.

Swamiji goes to the grandfather and asks, "Will you be able to give your life for your son?" The old-age

Who is ready to drink the water? Come forward quickly!"

grandfather responds, "I am the guardian of this household. I have to take care of everyone. If I leave, who will take care of everyone?"

As Swamiji looks curiously at the grandmother, she says, "Swamiji, my daughter is pregnant and she is coming to stay with me for a month. If I leave, who will take care of her and her newborn baby? Ask Uma. I was telling her I would do anything for her."

Swamiji smiles a bit and as soon as he looks at Uma, she says in a fearful tone, "I have to live for my son. If I die, who will look after him? He needs me. So please don't ask me to sacrifice myself."

At last, Swamiji goes to Dhyan and asks, "Tell me son, will you give your life for your father?" Before Dhyan can reply, Uma puts his arms around him and says, "How can you be so cruel? Consider his age. He has not even seen the world yet. How can you even think of such a thing?"

Swamiji says, "It looks like all of you are really needed in this world. Only Akash was not needed, that is why God decided to summon him. Anyways, let's finish his last rites. It's getting late."

Swamiji contemplates as he leaves the house, 'In this worldly life, deep down, every human being thinks only for themselves, not for anyone else. This is the reality of life. This is the form of moha! Is the moha for one's self greater than the moha for all other worldly things?'



Cruise Trip

Come on friends! Pack up fast... We have to go on a 15-day cruise trip. There will so many fun things on the cruise like a dance club, a movie theatre, a sports area, a food court, a swimming pool, and many others. We will have a lot of fun! So let's make a checklist of all the things that we will take with us.

Everyone has been having a lot of fun on the cruise the past five days, when suddenly we get the news that the ship has hit a huge iceberg that has created a large crack in it. The captain was not able to detect the presence of the iceberg because the radar had gone bad. Now, the ship is in such an area of the sea, where there is no radio signal. To save ourselves, we have to use small boats to reach a nearby island. We only have an hour to evacuate the ship. To fit as many people in each boat, and to avoid going over the weight limit, we can only take ten items with us. So, everyone is requested to only take items which are very important and useful. This is because there is no hope of getting help for the next ten days. Rain could fall on the island's forest and we have no information if food will be available there.

So now let's make a list of things to take with us to the island. Friends, this is how my list could look.

Tanan





The list was quite different when we left home for the cruise. If we were allowed to take more items to the island, then I would have taken all of my things. However, since I was only allowed to take ten items, a lot of the items seemed unessential.

Food and clothing are considered essential, whereas everything else is considered unessential, meaning that they are not needed.

Similarly, in our own lives, there are unessential things that we are not able to let go of due to our moha, and essential things that we overlook. So let's understand what is essential and nonessential in our lives.

Let's see what Dadashri has to say about this...

Through the Gnani's Scientific Vision

Shed Away Your Desire for That Which is Unnecessary

Therefore you should decide what is necessary and what is unnecessary in this worldly life. Necessary means they will definitely be needed, and unnecessary means a load that has been deliberately taken on due to illusory attachment (moha). Now, the unnecessary things are such that they will not decrease. Some will complain, "I too want to decrease them, but they are not decreasing; the daughter-in-law keeps mumbling, the wife keeps nagging." Yet, he has the intent (bhaav) in the mind that, 'I want to decrease them.' So, even if the intent is there, that is enough.

It is like this; you should make two lists, one for the necessary things, and the other for those that are not necessary in this life. You should look at everything in your home, and determine which are necessary, and which are unnecessary. Shed away your desire for the unnecessary things. And for those that are necessary, you have no choice but to continue to like them!

The more of that which is unnecessary, the greater the upadhi (externally-induced problems). The necessary too is considered a load, but is not called an upadhi because it is needed. But the unnecessary is all upadhi.

What is the Law of Necessity?

A landlord came to me. He started asking me, "How much does a person need to live life? I have a thousand acres of land, a bungalow, two cars and a significant bank balance. So how much should I keep?" I told him, "Look brother, each person should assess his needs based on what the circumstances were when he was born. He can come to a decision about how much he needs for the rest of his life based on whatever luxuries he had at the time he was born. That is the standard guideline. Everything else that you have in excess is poison and it will kill you."

The law of nature is such that everyone indeed gets pleasure depending on his needs. The 'tender' that everyone had filled does indeed get fulfilled. Whatever is needed will readily appear on its own.

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Youth back to the event location.

Before marriage, when I was living in Ahmedabad, I had a lot of interest in getting ready and wearing fashionable clothes. After marriage, I moved to Simandhar City and saw that everyone here dressed simply. I did not even realize when I stopped dressing fashionably and started dressing simply. I started believing that my moha for dressing fashionably had gone away. I was very happy to have become free of this moha without any effort.

After some time, my cousin's wedding was announced and we were invited to attend it. It was a three-day event, to be held in a village about three hours away from Ahmedabad. The first day was for the rituals, the second day for Raas-Garba and the last day for the marriage. It just so happened that there was no good beauty parlors there. I started getting thoughts like, "I can do without a beauty parlor for the first two days, but I would have to dress up well on the day of the wedding. How would it look if I didn't give attention to this?" About three days before the event, I started so many preparations, as if I was the one who was going to get married! All I had in my mind was, "Where will I get ready?", "What will I do?", "How will I look in these clothes and jewelry?"....

So finally, I booked a beauty parlor in Ahmedabad itself and after the Raas-Garba, at 1 AM, I left for the beauty parlor and reached there at 4 in the morning. After getting ready, I travelled the 3 hours back to the event location.

After this event, in one Soneri Prabat, Niruma had said, "Many people feel their moha has gone. But if they see a diamond necklace in a shop, then the moha arises again. And in a shopping mall, they get lost in the splendor of all the showrooms and stroll everywhere, buying even those things that are not worth buying. That is how this moha is... They end up doing so much deceit." That is when it occurred to me, 'Wow, the moha has not gone anywhere!'

What doesn't moha make one do!!!

Glimpse of One of

Dadashri's

Books

Moha Gushes Forth Upon Touching Something

Questioner: Dada, I do not have any moha for jewelry, but I still want good clothes!

Dadavani may-2014

Dadashri: All that is moha for sure. You may not have any for jewelry right now, but if you wear it, then its moha will rise again.

Questioner: No Dada, I can give you a guarantee about that.

Dadashri: No, when you actually wear the diamonds, the moha for diamonds rises and intoxicates. This is its nature; the moment something is touched, the moha rises and intoxicates the one with moha. The one without moha has no problem even if he touches something.

Say a man has to spend his entire life in jail and he is provided with food there, but no sweets or desserts. Does

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this situation mean that his moha has gone? No, the moha is surely there within. Just because he does not get it, does not mean the moha is gone.

Questioner: I do have the moha of taking proper care of this body. See, there are so many grey hairs, and the moha to dye them does not leave.

Dadashri: Yes, it does not leave.

Questioner: That is needed. Dada, I keep feeling that I have to live well. Leaving aside jewelry, I do want proper clothes.

Dadashri: That is the habit from the past that has established. Therefore, it will not leave. But from within, You have to tell him, 'Chandubhai, change a little. For how long will you continue to dye your hair black?' But he is not going to refrain from dyeing his hair.

Questioner: Yes, that indeed is what happens.

Dadashri: That is because it is an effect from the past life, but You should change your intent.

In America, they take me to stores saying, "Come on Dada." The poor store keeps bowing down to us saying, "You are blessed." We have not looked with interest at anything in the entire store! We would not be interested in looking at anything. We look at things, but not with interest. What need do we have for anything? Nothing would be of any use to us! You look with interest at things!



Tainted by Moha

What do we do to sustain ourselves in this world which is tainted by moha?... Let's see!

Ami's college life just started and she is waiting eagerly for her mother. For the last half an hour, her eyes have been more on the door and less on her phone.



The doorbell rings, "Oh Mom! Welcome home. I have been waiting for you for so long. I want some tips."

Mom said. "Yes dear! Today you have a need for mom's tips as well, don't you!!! Tell me what happened?"

"Mom, you are so famous. I mean, everyone in the family calls you so lovingly. No one has any complaints about you. Your friend Rita was also saying that you had received the 'Most Popular Student' award in college. So what is the secret to your beauty?" Mom thinks a bit and then tells Ami the secret behind her popularity.

What do you think the secret is?

- 1.Did she maintain her body through a crash diet?
- 2. Did she take weight loss pills?
- 3. Did she get her body in good shape by taking steroid injections?
- 4. Did she go through skin whitening treatment and body contouring surgery to look attractive?

Ami's mother has not done any of these things because their effects are harmful.

The consequences of a crash diet: It has been found through research that a crash diet weakens ones digestive power and prevents one from getting the necessary nutrients. Immunity power is also weakened, which can cause various diseases.

The consequences of weight loss pills: According to the BBC, after taking such pills, a 21 year-old student died. These pills are one type of drug, which cause a hormonal imbalance and can result in an elevated heart rate, high blood pressure and other serious problems.

The consequences of skin whitening treatment and body contouring: There is a high risk of bleeding and infection when the surgery is performed.

The consequences of steroid injections: Steroids are one type of drug. An addiction to steroids increases one's tendencies for throwing tantrums, showing aggression, experiencing apathy, and committing suicide.

Ami's mother explained that one's popularity is not based on the things mentioned above, but come from the following attributes listed below.

Self-Confidence – Keeping faith in yourself.

Result: Increases your mental stability and helps you progress towards your goal.

Positivity - Having the strength to find something good in a bad or negative situation.

Result: You won't be miserable in any situation. Due to positivity, those around you will also be happy. By developing a positive nature, you will also acquire the ability to properly finish any task.

A Helping Nature – Helping others in whichever way you can.

Result: Others will become positive towards you and you will get the blessings of your elders.

Having Good Conduct with others - Having respect for those senior to you and love for those junior to you is the key to always staying happy.

Result: The one who has good conduct is loved by all. If a very beautiful person were to constantly insult you or say bad words to you, would you want to make friends with them?

Stay Sincere to your Goal -Progress towards your decided goal and accomplish it.

Result: An accomplished person is liked by all, whether they look beautiful or not.

What do you think? Should Ami follow her mother's tips or hurt herself by feeding her moha of looking good on the outside?

Gnani With Youth

Questioner: I have a lot of moha for myself. What should I do to remove it?

Pujyashree: What do you mean by moha for yourself? Is it moha about eating and drinking?

Questioner: Yes, even that. But mainly to take photos of myself.

Pujyashree: To take photos and selfies?

Questioner: Yes.

Pujyashree: Then who do you show these photos to?

Questioner: I keep looking at them and also upload them.

Pujyashree: But where do you upload them?

Questioner: To all social networking apps...

Pujyashree: Those are all mistakes. What do you want to accomplish by sending your photos to everyone? It's better to keep photos of Dada, Niruma, Simandhar Swami or other Lords... If someone sees those, then they might have the intent to reach their shelter and go to moksha. If some skin disease were to arise right now, then the face would become spoiled. What is worth having moha for in this? If we have to travel abroad, then instead of sitting in the car to go to the airport, if we keep on coddling the car, washing it, cleaning it, painting it and praising it, "My car is so nice..." Hey! The car is a means. What will happen if we don't go to the airport? And if we want to go abroad, then we should reach there. Just like the car, this body is also a means. If we make it attractive and display photos of it everywhere, then will people worship us?

Questioner: Not at all...

Pujyashree: So what will they do?

Questioner: They will post comments.

Pujyashree: No! They will look at them with a sexual intent. They will spoil their intents and that will also spoil our future lives. When one does not have inner happiness, he resorts to all of this.

So we should make a firm decision, that instead of wasting time on social media and photos, we should make our parents happy. We should serve our parents and help them. Whereas, all this is considered moha. When one does not have inner happiness, he goes to get it from outside. Just like how a foul smelling person sprays cologne on themselves and claims "I smell so good". Hey! He had to spray cologne because of his foul smell, right? Would a clean person even need cologne? So this moha is the wrong path. Instead, we should be natural and spontaneous, pious, and have good values and conduct. But it should not be in excess, such that we waste a lot of time each day in moha.

Questioner: Pujyashree, please give me the energy to come out of moha.

Youth App



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#Poem

Parvashta no paar nahi ne pale pal haalaaki chhe... Toye chhootvaanu na sooje, moha 'ena' ghanaa baaki chhe...

Nathi aavvanaa je saathe, e sukhoni 'ene' lhaay chhe... Kyaarek vyakti kyaarek vastuothi 'e' bandhaay chhe...

Haju kyaank meetha rasni aashe bhatakto fare chhe... Kyaank ne kyaank, kaink ne kaink maangto fare chhe...

Aam to 'e' chhe monghamoolo, pan sastaamaa venchaai jaay chhe... Hoy cheej saav kshullak, ne chit choraai jaay chhe...

> Mohthi 'maru' ane 'maaraa', naa aataa chadhe chhe... 'Pote' kon chhe, e jawaab j kyaa jade chhe?

Ek moharaajaa ane moti eni senaa chhe... Krodh, maan, maayaa, lobh sipaahi enaa chhe...

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If there is any suffering in this world it is all because of moha.

-Dadashri

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