

Akram Youth

December 2022 English

Dada Bhagwan Parivar

Castle of Imagination



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Editorial

Jai Sat Chit Anand Friends!

Imagination means to create a new design. We all must have created an imaginary design from time to time. For example, “If this happens, I will do this... If this happens to me.... When I go there, this will happen...” etc. We feel, “What is the harm in imagining? It is not as if I am hurting anyone. No one will know about it!” So, we do not think that there is anything wrong with imagination. However, most of the time, things do not go according to our imagination. So, we end up feeling sad. When the castle of our imagination comes crumbling down, we understand what reality is.

In this magazine, we will talk about what imagination is in relation to today’s youth. What are the reasons that we imagine? What is the beginning of it? What do we lose by imagining? How do we come out of it? We will find out the answers to these questions. With the hope that the line of demarcation between imagination and reality becomes clear...

Jai Sat Chit Anand
Dimplebhai Mehta



First Impression

“Neel, congratulations on successfully completing one year of your probation period!” the company’s Senior Manager Nimeshbhai told Neel Desai, who had joined the company one year ago.

“Thank you sir, but if it hadn’t been for everyone’s support, I would not have been able to perform so well.” Neel replied.

“You are so humble. One who moves forward while keeping everyone together will make huge progress in life!” encouraged Nimeshbhai.

“Oh, thank you so much sir!”, said

Neel, expressing his joy. With that, Neel and Nimeshbhai left for the day.

Neel Desai was a young and energetic employee of a big company! He was very happy. Today, he started as a permanent employee after completing one year of probation. On top of that, his boss praised him for his good work. So, Neel was overjoyed.

As Neel was leaving for the day, his phone rang.

“Yes sir! Yes, yes, go ahead.... What? Oh, today?”

Nimesh sir had called Neel regarding



a presentation for one of their clients. Neel had to prepare the presentation. The meeting was scheduled to take place in one week and there was so much work to complete. So, Nimesh sir called Neel back to the office immediately.

“Oh, sure sir! No, no, I am still near the office. I will come right away.” Even though Neel had left the office and was on his way home, he immediately turned back for the office as he did not want to miss such a golden opportunity of presenting to an important client. He hurriedly went into Nimesh sir’s office, and they went over the details of the presentation. Then they went to dinner. After dinner, both left for the day. Then, Neel started dreaming about quickly

progressing at work and becoming successful.

While laying in bed at night, he started thinking about the events that happened during the day. How the Senior Manager spoke so nicely of him, how he explained the work in such detail to him, and how he took him out to dinner. Neel felt very proud of himself. He worked around the clock and finished the presentation. Nimish sir called him the day before the presentation and said, “Good job Neel! Bring the presentation in a pen drive early tomorrow morning. Thanks for all your hard work!”






Neel sat with a cup of hot coffee on his balcony that night and started daydreaming.

‘Tomorrow is my day! That astrologer was correct when he told me that this year my stars are favorable for my career. Above all that, I have also worked so hard, so this result was bound to come. I will reach work at 8:30 AM instead of 9:00 AM tomorrow. Oh yes! I will wear my new tie tomorrow. It is said that the first impression is the last impression. I will give such a powerful presentation that Nimesh sir and the client will surely be impressed.’ Neel was so engrossed in his imagination that he started visualizing everything.

‘The entire conference room is full of senior and junior employees. I am entering the room in an impressive professional attire. Nimesh sir is welcoming me, “Come and sit by me, Neel.” He is making me sit next to him. Now Nimesh sir is introducing me to the client, “This is Neel, our young, energetic and hardworking employee. He has prepared today’s presentation and he will present it himself.” Everyone is focused on me. I am standing up to present. After greeting the clients and special guests, I am presenting the company’s projections and forecasts. The presentation is over. I am answering all the questions of the clients to their satisfaction. There is only



**Neel was so engrossed
in his imagination that
he started visualizing
everything.**

one question where I hesitate, but Nimesh sir supports me. The clients are impressed, and they give the deal to our company. The entire conference room is filled with applause. I thank everyone, but my voice cannot be heard due to the noise of the clapping.'

Neel sipped coffee and then again started daydreaming.

'That's it! After this, my promotion is certain within two years. My office will be right next to Nimesh sir's. The assistant will bring tea and snacks for me whenever I ask for it. There will be several employees reporting to me. Slowly, everyone will recognize my talent. Junior managers will start taking my advice. Going forward, I

will be involved in major decisions of the company. The company will profit from my decisions. Not only my boss, but the company's CEO will also acknowledge me. Success will be at my feet. I will earn a lot until the age of forty-five and then I will retire. I will be sitting on the front porch of my mansion. My servant will come and bring me tea and snacks and whatever I need to write my novel. I will write my autobiography and publish it. Thousands of copies of my autobiography will be sold. My life will become an inspiration for the current young generation.'





While daydreaming, Neel did not even know when he fell asleep. He woke up when the sun hit his face. It was already 7:30 AM when he suddenly woke up. He hurriedly got ready and left for the office. He reached the office at 8:15 AM before anybody else had arrived. Neel again glanced through the presentation and made sure that there were no mistakes. Nimesh sir entered the office after half an hour. He was in a rush. He came directly to Neel. Neel was ready to join the meeting. Nimesh sir said, "Good morning, my boy! You look handsome today! Is it your birthday?"

"Thank you sir! No, the presentation..." Before Neel could finish

his sentence, Nimesh sir said,

"Oh yes, the presentation! The clients should be coming soon. Give me the pen drive. I need to rush!"

Nimesh sir took Neel's pen drive and rushed into the conference room. Exactly at 9:00 AM, the clients entered into the conference room along with two other senior members from Nimesh sir's team.

Neel stood there in shock. Everything appeared blurry to him. Was it due to the foggy conference room's glass walls or were there tears in his eyes?





Cut It off From the Start

Questioner: I want to ask that whenever I am free, I start imagining about respect and sexuality. Especially with reference to respect, if things don't happen as per my imagination, then I end up hurting others as well, so....

Pujyashree: Yes, with reference to respect... What is your imagination? If one is very hungry, he will imagine, 'If the lunch box has sweets, I will finish them all at once. If it has savory snacks, then I will...' But when he opens the box, it is empty. So his imagination doesn't come true! Does the imagination come true in reality?

Questioner: No.

Pujyashree: So, we should immediately raise an objection to our imagination that, 'You are creating a design that it will happen like this. When I go there, everyone will welcome me with respect....' Didn't that lady imagine about the restaurant? She imagined, 'We will go to a restaurant in the evening and then I will enjoy the food over there.' Then what happened? The



Division



entire program got cancelled. So, she felt unhappy because of her imagination.

So, whenever such imagination arises, we should divide it internally by saying, 'What if this does not happen? Everyone will welcome me with respect, give me a front row seat, offer refreshments, etc....' Isn't all this wrong imagination?

There was one man who daydreamed about getting married. While walking with a pot of milk on his head, he started imagining, 'I will sell this milk and earn money. From that, I will start a bigger business and earn a lot of money. Then I will marry a nice girl. Then I will have a boy. The boy will say, "Daddy, mom is calling you." I will nod my head.' As the man nodded his head, the pot of milk fell and broke! So, all this was just

him daydreaming! We should cut short the daydreaming from the beginning. Nothing of that sort will happen in reality.

Stop fantasizing about sexuality also. The lady mentioned today, our past life's inner intents will arise in the form of imagination in this life and will be sown as seeds for the next life. We should burn those seeds. 'No, I do not want to daydream about such things. O Dada Bhagwan! Give me strength to remain free from all sexual impulses and passions.' Divide it in this manner.

Questioner: I try to break the pattern of fantasies internally like this once or twice, but it still continues.

Pujyashree: So, we should divide it and then divert ourselves from it. Chant 'Dada Bhagwan Na Asim Jay Jay Kar' or



sing Dada's spiritual songs. Start a different imagination, 'What if Niruma asks me, "What do you want?" What will my response be?' Imagine Simandhar Swami's satsang in Mahavideh Kshetra.

Questioner: Mostly I start daydreaming when I am free and ready to go to bed.

Pujyashree: So, the thoughts of sexuality arise.

Questioner: Yes.

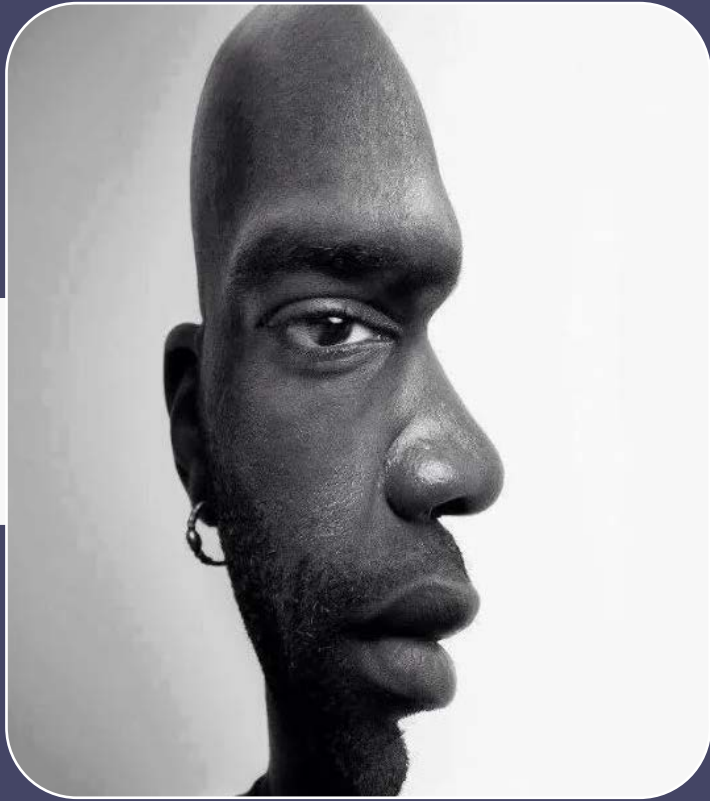
Pujyashree: So, you have to divide them. Start chanting 'Dada Bhagwan Na Asim Jay Jay Kar.' Or play some spiritual songs or chant loudly, "I am pure Soul, I am full of infinite knowledge, I am full of infinite vision..." Divert that link. Break the link of imagination. It is possible to break it. We have a lot of Dada's literature. We have talks about Gnan and satsang.

Do you understand the point about breaking the link? This is one type of illusory attachment. It is a hunger for respect and sexuality. So, one fantasies, 'I will have fun in a certain way.' Then he will become emotional and try to have fun. However, that is not real happiness. On the contrary, if one imagines about the Self, 'How am I pure Soul?' In fact, this imagination is about the Real! Imagine about that and your energies of the Self will arise! Read Dada's books at night and contemplate about that so your intellect and ego will start thinking about it and all the worldly imagination links will be broken. Try this experiment.

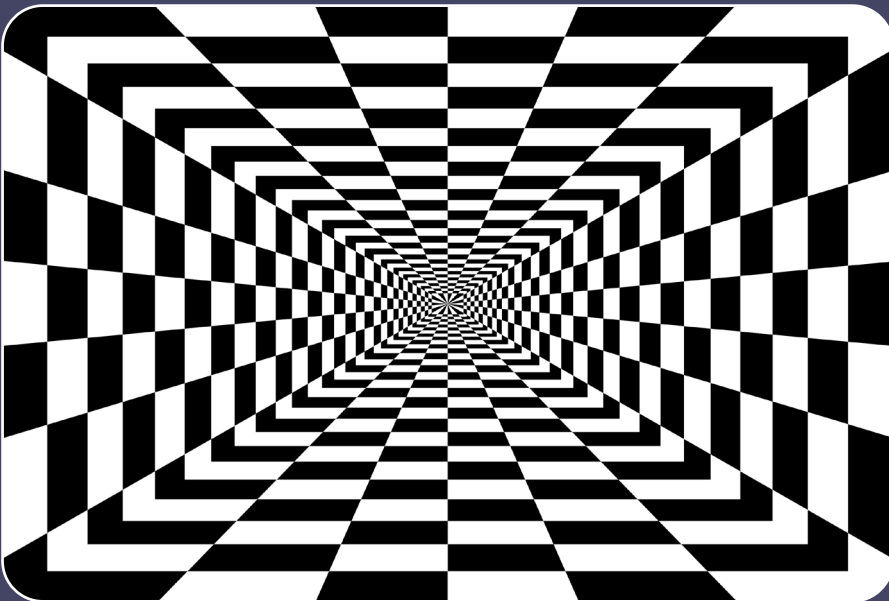
Questioner: Okay, I will do that.

Activity

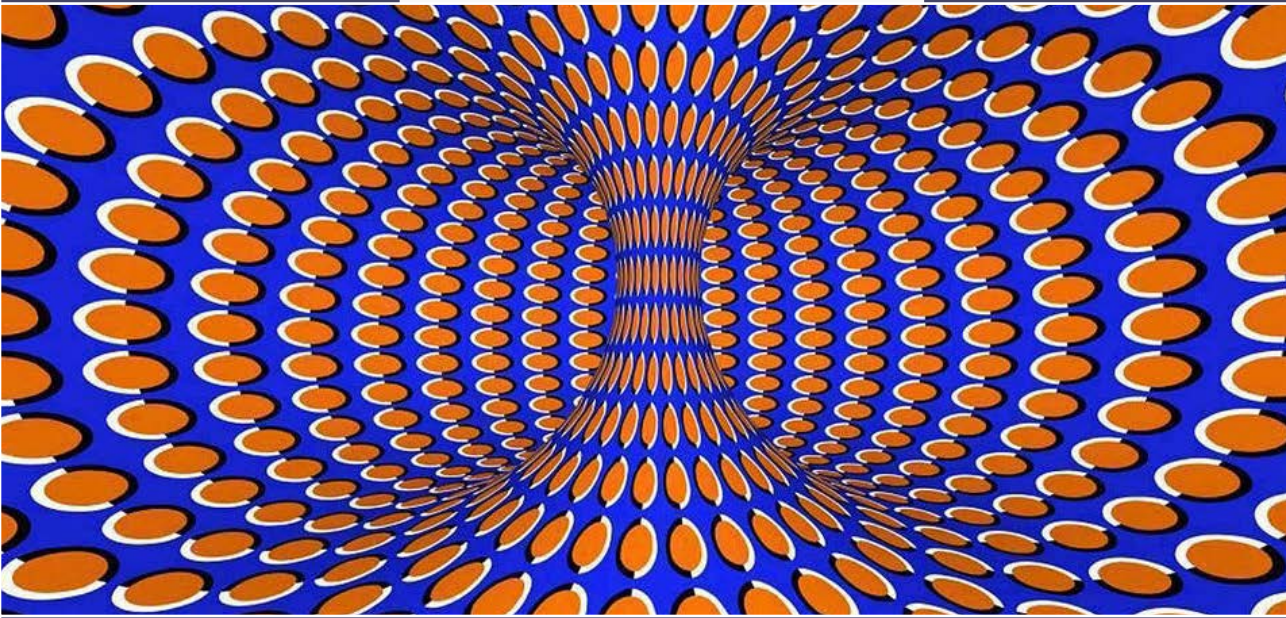
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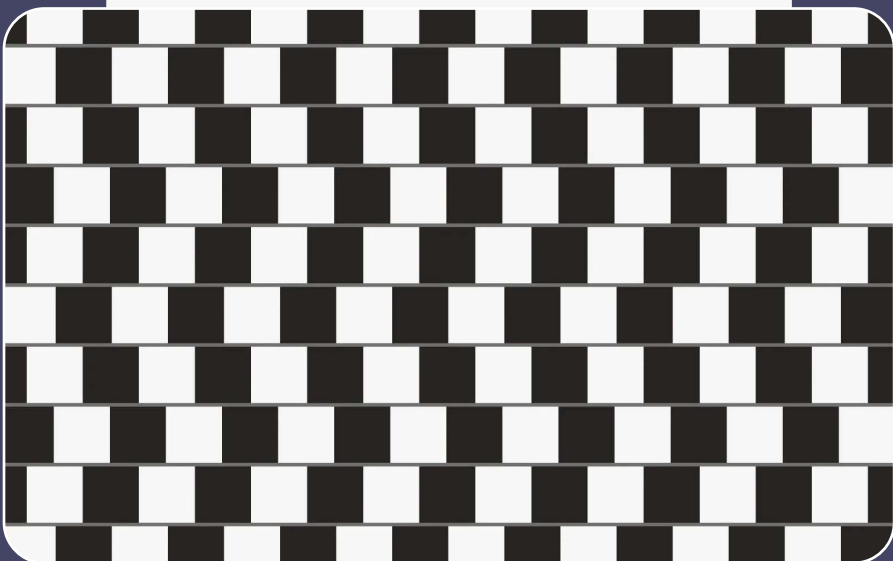
Is the
image
straight or
upside
down?



Is this image moving or steady?



Are the lines parallel to each other or crooked?



Castle of Imagination

“Students! I have good news for you today.”

Sir started the class with an announcement.

“You have to work very hard this year. You have to prepare for your twelfth grade exam as well as for the entrance exams. So, I am thinking of taking you for an outing for two days before we start the year. Our principal has already given us permission for this!”

“Yay... a two-day outing... It will be so much fun!” Everyone was overjoyed. Everyone started discussing how they would enjoy the outing.

Nisha also started daydreaming about the outing.

“What shall we pack for the outing?” Riya asked Nisha.

“I was just thinking about that. Let’s decide over a phone call tonight.”

Nisha told her mom about the outing when she reached home. “Mom, are all my

new clothes ironed and ready? I want to start packing from today itself.” she said as she went to her room. She started daydreaming about how she would enjoy the outing as she packed her items...

‘We have to leave early in the morning. It’s winter, so I will wear my blue jeans and my favorite sweater. I look good in that. I will wear my new shoes, as there will be a lot of walking. Should I tie my hair up or leave it loose? No, I think I should tie it up. I’ll wear these party clothes at night along with high heels. Wow! I will look better than everyone. And yes, I will also pack my makeup kit, matching nail polish and a jewelry box.’

“Nisha, are you daydreaming? Did you finish packing? Don’t forget anything.” Nisha’s mom said, as she entered her room.

“Oh... What is this? Why are you taking a party dress to a picnic?”

“Oh mom... Everyone wears such clothes these days.”

“No, you shouldn’t take such an



expensive outfit on a picnic.” Mom took the dress out. Nisha could not say anything.

Everyone boarded the bus on the day of the outing and so did Krish. He was a newcomer to the school. He believed that one could make friends in a new school simply by showing off. He wore his sunglasses and fixed his hair as he boarded the bus. He looked around and sat in a seat in the middle of the bus. Samir was sitting next to him. He started talking loudly with Samir. Teachers and students noticed Krish, as he was talking loudly. As Nisha boarded the bus, a few girls ended up saying, “Welcome, miss topper!” Krish looked at Nisha and asked Samir, “Who is she?”

“She is our class topper, Nisha.”

The bus started moving. Krish started thinking as he looked outside the window.

“This Nisha is at the top of her class, and I don’t even get passing grades. If I get 70% marks this year, then dad has promised to buy me a bike. I have an idea! Let me become friends with Nisha on this trip. Then she will share her notes with me. But why would a smart girl like her be my friend? I’ll have to make a great impression on her for that. What should I

do...?’

Everyone started singing songs. Krish started singing loudly. Nisha got annoyed by this. She gave an angry look to Krish, put on her earphones and went to sleep. The bus stopped after two hours. Sir announced, “We have reached the adventure park. Take your expensive items to put them in the locker. We will have a lot of fun here. Then we will stay at the resort, have dinner and then do a campfire!”

Everyone was very excited. The girls and boys went on different rides. Krish tried a lot, but he was not able to draw Nisha’s attention towards him. Then, everyone gathered for the campfire at night.

Krish wore a nice black t-shirt and jeans at the campfire. He saw Nisha. Nisha was wearing a pink dress. Krish sat right across from her among his friends. Nisha was also sitting with her friends. She saw Krish. Krish was certainly looking at her. He smiled internally thinking that now he will be able to impress Nisha. But, Nisha looked away from him.

The games started after some time. Krish gave his best performance in all the games. This time he was able to draw



Nisha's attention towards him. Krish was also looking at Nisha every few minutes. Both exchanged a smile. Slowly, Nisha started clapping whenever Krish won a game. Krish was observing Nisha all through this. He was happy that he had accomplished his goal. Nisha also thought that Krish was attracted to her.

The next morning, Nisha was daydreaming about this new world.

'Will I meet Krish again today? What if he notices me...? What should I wear today? All my clothes are boring, but let me straighten my hair. Let me apply some good makeup. And I do have my high heels!'

"Nisha... come on, get ready fast! We have to go sightseeing!" Nisha was snapped out of her fantasy by Riya's voice.

Everyone was enjoying and taking selfies while sightseeing, but Nisha was not interested.

'Am I looking good? Where is Krish? What does he like? He is very good at games, but is he good at studies?' She was so engrossed in her thoughts that she tripped over a stone and fell. She cried out, "Ouch!" Krish grabbed that opportunity and immediately came to her rescue, "Are you okay?" Nisha's eyes twinkled. Her expressions changed. She brushed her dress off and said, "Oh yes, all good!" Krish gave a big smile and extended his hand, "Hi, I am Krish. New admission." Both started talking while sightseeing.



As Nisha became a little friendly, Krish asked, "Nisha, will you do me a favor? I am new to this school. Will you share your notes with me for some time?" Nisha was more than willing. She immediately replied, "Of course! I can definitely do that for a friend!"

The outing came to an end. As soon as Nisha reached home, she laid in her bed and started daydreaming again.

'Now I will meet Krish everyday at school. But, the regret is that I will be in my school uniform! However, I can still keep on changing my hair style and nail polish every day! I think Krish likes me. He does seem smart. Because he is new at school, he is asking for my notes. I will make notes for him in good handwriting!'

After the first day in school, Nisha immediately gave her notes to Krish, “Hi Krish! These are today’s notes. This is for Math, this is for Science, English....”

“Great!! Your handwriting is beautiful, just like you !!”

“Thanks.” Nisha said, as she fixed her hair.

“My midterm test score will improve because of you. So, I will surely treat you!” said Krish.

“Not only yours, but both our scores will be good.” Nisha added.

Krish was very happy as he left for home, ‘Seems like I will not have to study hard! I will definitely score 70% with these notes. Then I will enjoy my new bike at college!’

Nisha was now more focused on meeting with Krish under the excuse of notes rather than studying. Midterm exams were fast approaching. Nisha used to daydream about Krish while studying. She had no idea what she wrote in her first examination paper. As she started preparing for the next day’s exam, she again started daydreaming about Krish.

‘All my exams are going well. Krish must also be doing good. Both of us will be at the top of our class. He will take me out for a treat. We will prepare for the board exams together. We will again score high marks in the board exam. Then we will take admission in the same college and then...’

Suddenly Nisha’s phone rang.

“Nisha, I am not able to understand this topic. Can you please help me if you understand it.” Riya said frantically and it broke Nisha’s chain of thoughts.

“I am not able to understand what you are saying. I have a headache.” Nisha hung up on Riya saying this.



Even on the following day, Nisha completed her exams haphazardly. When she got home, she started daydreaming again without studying properly. 'Krish and I will be best friends in college. Everyone will be jealous of us. Then, he will propose to me on Valentine's Day. Then, I will say "Yes", and ...'

Nisha's daydreaming got worse day by day. Her attitude at home changed. She started enjoying spending time alone instead of being with her friends and family. She would get angry if someone said anything.

Krish was happy as the exams were over, 'Good, the exams are over. Now there is a short break before the finals. I will take my new bike to college everyday. I will make new friends and enjoy. Anyways, I don't want to do a job, I want to start a business.'

Days passed and the midterm exam results came. Nisha failed one subject and got just passing marks in other subjects.

Krish also failed two subjects. Nisha's friend Riya scored the highest in the class. Nisha was depressed. On the other side, Krish was also upset because his dreams about roaming around on a new bike were broken. He was mad at Nisha. He started avoiding Nisha.

Nisha was miserable at home. During the Diwali vacation, Nisha's mom sent her to her uncle's place. Her uncle's daughter Megha was a school teacher. She found out about Nisha's exam results. One day, she sat with Nisha and asked her with love, "What happened Nisha? You used to be at the top of your class."

"I don't know!" Nisha said, trying to cut the conversation short.

Megha told Nisha, "Just write down your daily routine, Nisha! Where and how do you spend your time? What changed from before? Write down everything. It will help you."

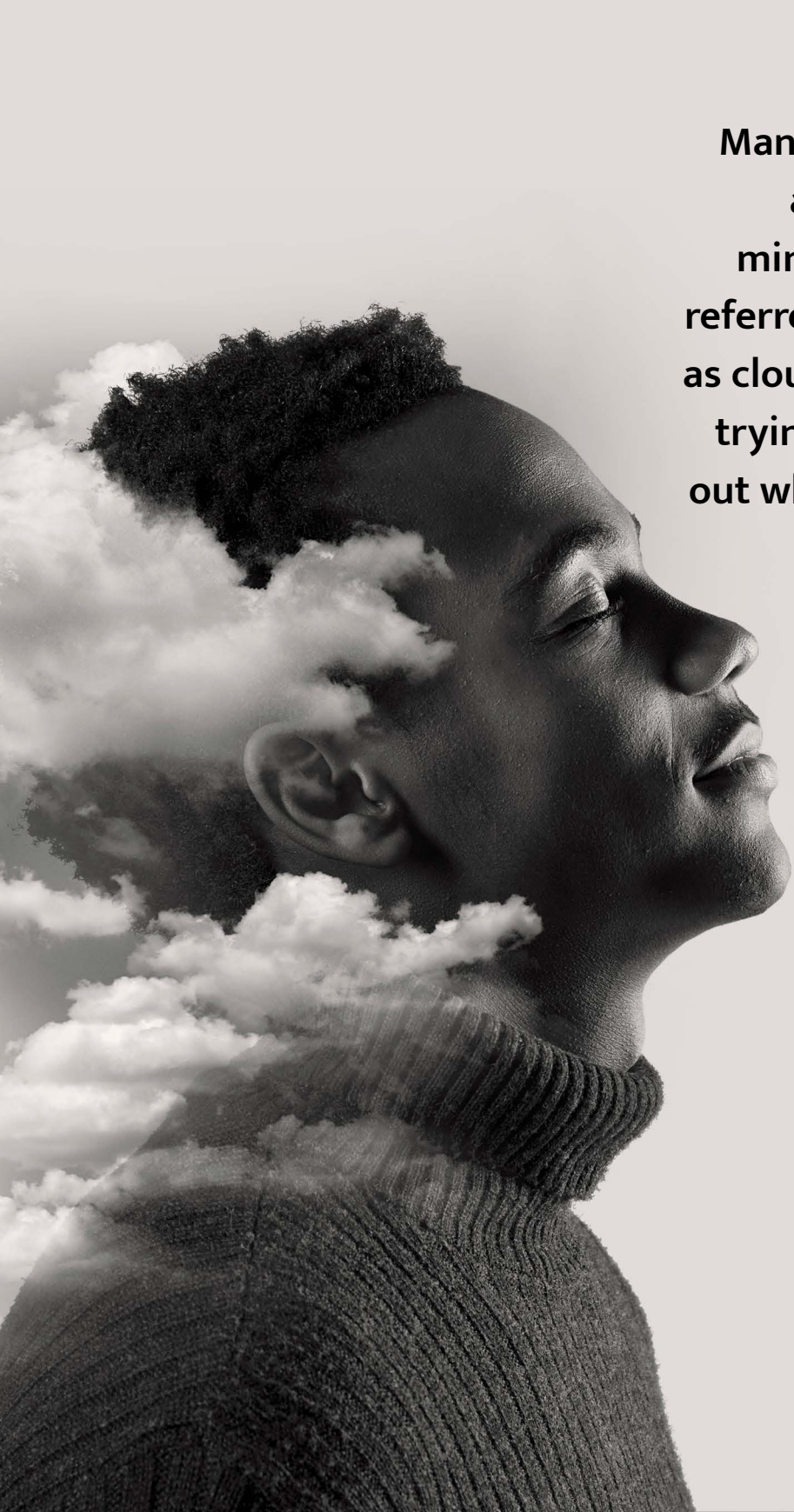
At night, Nisha started writing down her entire routine and everything was

clear to her.

'Ever since I met Krish, I have wasted all my time thinking about him. I have ignored my family, friends and studies. I thought Krish liked me, but after the results, he has even stopped talking to me. Now I know why he became friends with me so quickly. Not only on Krish, but I don't want to waste my time on anyone. I will only focus on my studies and career.'

The next day, Megha saw that Nisha looked fresh. Her castle of imagination had broken and she was free of a huge burden.



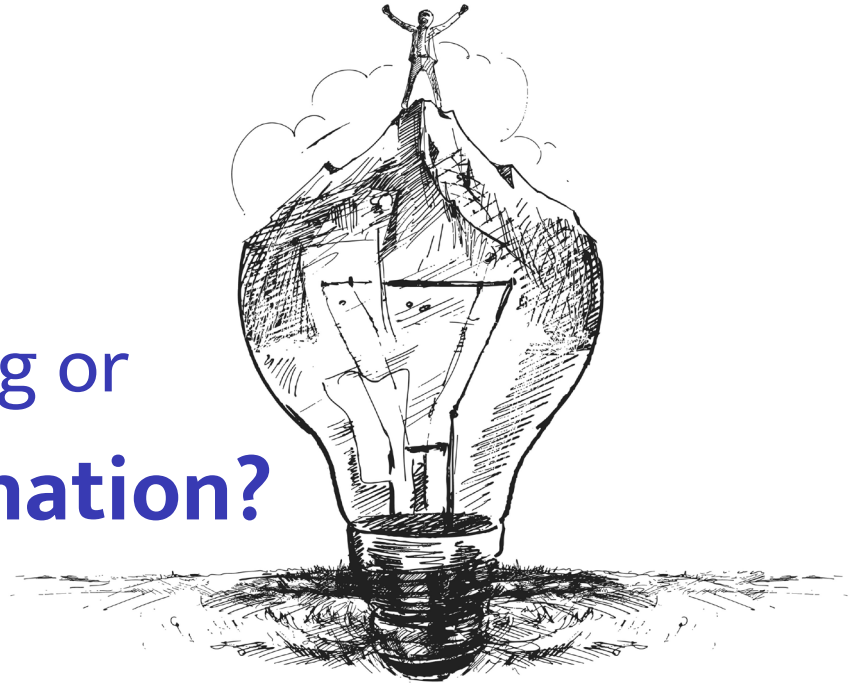


Many fantasies
arise in the
mind. God has
referred to these
as clouds. It's like
trying to figure
out what a cloud
looks like.

- Dadashri



Career Planning or Imagination?



✦ ————— ● ————— ✦

Questioner: After attending some seminars, I feel that they focus on imagination, especially in the subconscious mind. They tell us to imagine it. 'You will reap what you sow.' They emphasize on imagination and say that you will act as per your thoughts. So, one should imagine his goals for them to materialize. One has to definitely do that. So, is that an offense? Is there any sin in it? I do not have clarity regarding that.

Pujyashree: Who taught you that? That is not the right path. It is not necessary to imagine.

Questioner: No, no, this is not about spirituality.

Pujyashree: Is it necessary to imagine about the worldly life? Should one imagine about getting married?

Instead of imagining, decide. Tell your parents, "I want to get married now. Please start preparing for my marriage." Decide like this, so the planning for your marriage will start.

Questioner: Let's say someone wants to become a doctor. I have attended such seminars. In those seminars they teach you to let your subconscious mind imagine your goals. Opportunities will be created according to your imagination and goals.

Pujyashree: Yes, but you are using the word 'imagination' as per your understanding. Instead, if you want to understand truly, make a firm determination. If you want to achieve anything, make a firm determination about that and remain sincere to it.

Questioner: They also refer to it as

‘realization’.

Pujyashree: They will refer to it like that. It is the language of the world. If I say ‘aunt’, who am I referring to? Is it my dad’s sister or my mom’s sister or my dad’s brother’s wife? We get confused. In Gujarati, we have four very clear words, ‘masi, mami, foi, kaki.’ There is only one word for all these relations in English, ‘aunt.’ So, what do we say? We have to find out, ‘Who is he referring to as aunt?’ Then he will say, ‘I am referring to my mom’s brother’s wife.’ It is what it is. We have specific words for each relation, ‘mama, masi, mami.’ We can specifically call out each relation. So, the words are as per the levels of development. The Tirthankar Lords and Vitaraag Lords had exact words. They did not have any confusion.

So, instead of imagining, decide where you want to go.

Questioner: Yes, that is okay, but...

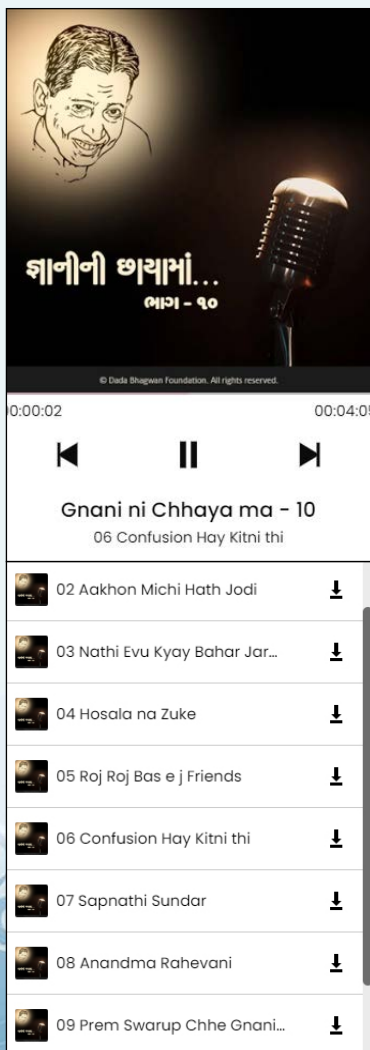
Pujyashree: Where do you want to go?

Questioner: So, should I do pratikraman for that?

Pujyashree: No, there is no need for that. Decide where you want to go now. Do you want to go to moksha or remain in the worldly life? If you want to go to moksha, you should follow the five Agnas and remain in the awakened awareness of the Self. If in the relative you feel that you want to do business, then make your file 1 do business and scientific circumstantial evidences will inspire file 1 to do that. Understood? Clear your files with equanimity.



Spiritual Songs



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Poem

Kalpana na dariya tarto manas, dube ajaanta...
Murakh manas thaake nahi, reti mahel chanta...

Shu samji manaso, havamaa bachka bharta...?
Male nahi kashuy, fogat ni kalpana o karta...

Kalpana o tana sukh ma, to koi saar nathi...
Ne jo bhogvato aave, to dukh no paar nathi...

Saav banavati, aa maan-apmaan ma raache che...
Keva gajab na bhikshuk, kalpana maa pan yaache che...

Shri Gnani kahe, aapno nischay margj saacho...
Nakki paadshe, kalpana no marg to che saav kaacho...

Kalpana karo to hoi atma lakshi, Shri Gnani kahe...
Samju manas, koi sansaari kalpana maa na rahe...

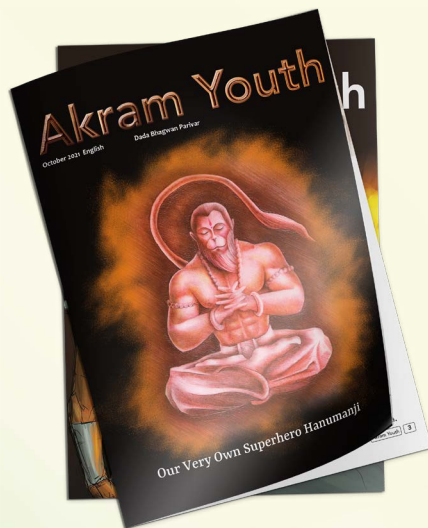
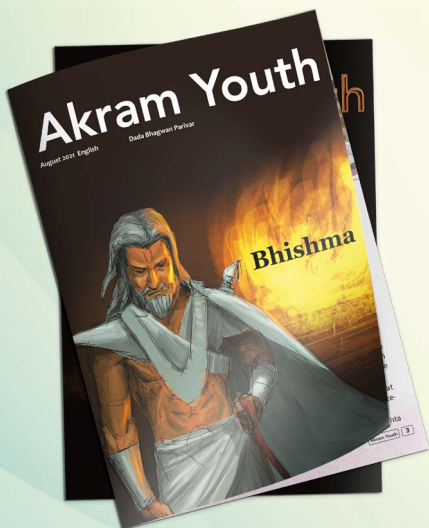


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