

Akram Youth

June 2022 English

Dada Bhagwan Parivar

What Will
— People —
Say



Table of Contents

04 What Will People Think?

06 The Gnani's Scientific Vision

08 Don't Get Affected

10 Temporary Certificate

13 Societal Influence-
Gnani's Influence

14 The Biggest Disease,
What Will People Say?

16 If You Fear People Then...

18 Niruma's Unflinching Resolve

20 Gnani with Youth -
Who Is Your Compass?

24 Poem

June 2022

Year: 10. Issue: 2

Cont. Issue: 110

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Editor - Dimple Mehta

Printer & Published by
Dimplebhai Mehta on behalf of
Mahavideh Foundation
Simandhar City, Adalaj - 382421.
Taluka & Dist - Gandhinagar

Owned by : Mahavideh Foundation
Simandhar City, Adalaj - 382421.
Taluka & Dist - Gandhinagar

Published at : Mahavideh Foundation
Simandhar City, Adalaj - 382421.
Taluka & Dist - Gandhinagar

Printed at : Amba Multiprint
B-99, GIDC, Sector-25,
Gandhinagar - 382025. Gujarat.
Total 24 Pages with Cover page

Subscription

Yearly Subscription

India : 200 Rupees

USA: 15 Dollars

UK: 12 Pounds

5 Years Subscription

India : 800 Rupees

USA: 60 Dollars

UK: 50 Pounds

In India, D.D. / M.O. should be drawn
in favour of "Mahavideh Foundation"
payable at Ahmedabad.

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Editorial

Dear friends,

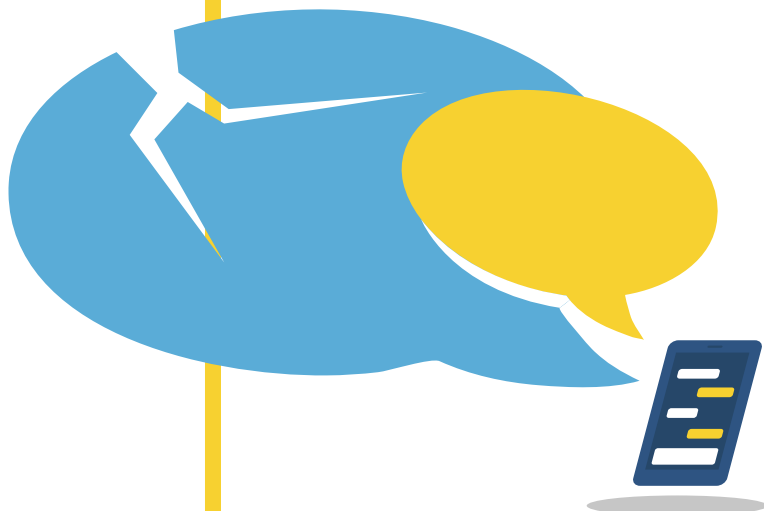
Sometimes certain events in our life put us in a dilemma and we question ourselves thinking, ‘Am I doing the right thing? Am I making a mistake? What if I am not successful in the field that I have chosen? Will the world abandon me due to the path that I have chosen?’ Many such thoughts arise, especially in our youth. Do you know what is the root cause of these questions? No, you may not know. So, let me explain. The root cause of all these is just one fear, “What will people say?”

But friends, if you read the autobiographies of great men, you will find one similarity in all of them. That distinct similarity is, they all made efforts with strong determination to achieve their goals. If they had given precedence to the thought, “What will people say?”, they would have never achieved success.

I am confident that this Akram Youth edition will guide you to become free of this imaginary fear of “What will people say?” and will help you to progress towards your goals in life.

- Dimplebhai Mehta

What Will People Think?



Khushi's college vacation started from today. She came home from college while making plans for her vacation. While she was waiting for the elevator, her neighbor, Kirti Aunty, and her daughter-in-law came there.

"What are your plans for the vacation, Khushi?" Kirti Aunty asked with a big smile.

"Kirti Aunty, the same plan as I have every year! I will catch tonight's train." Khushi replied calmly. But, before Kirti Aunty could ask any other questions, she put on her earphones and pretended to be busy on her phone.

Kirti Auntie's smile died down. Without saying anything she stared at Khushi and started whispering in her daughter-in-law's ear.

"She was such a happy girl. I don't know what has happened to her. Is it her age?"

"Mom, I think there is something wrong with her... You know how young-

sters are these days!"

"Poor girl... This is the age of vacationing, partying, and enjoying, whereas she is..."

They were not aware that Khushi was listening to them.

The elevator door opened, and everyone got out silently. When Khushi got home, the front door was locked, and she did not have the key. Thinking that mom would reach home soon, she sat on the doorsteps and opened her WhatsApp chat. She had a ton of messages in her friends group chat.

"Vacation plan?"...

"How about Goa?"...

"No, let's go camping."...

"How about we meet for dinner tonight and decide?"

Everyone agreed. But Khushi did not answer, so someone asked,

"Will you join us, Khushi?"

"Where is Khushi?"

"Forget it, she will not come..."

These days, she has different plans for vacation!” Khushi’s best friend, Priya wrote this with a sad emoji.

“So called spiritual plan!” Another friend wrote.

“On one side, she is taking part in a dance competition and on the other side, she is calling herself spiritual!”

Khushi read all this and got angry. She left the group out of anger.

Her best friend, Priya called her immediately.

“Khushi, why did you leave the group?”

“That’s my choice. Why do you speak negatively about me in the group?”

“I am not speaking negatively, it’s the other people...”

“But you started it. Why do you have to poke your nose in my life?” Khushi disconnected the phone.

At that moment, mom came home. Seeing Khushi’s tensed face, mom asked, “What happened dear?” Khushi did not say anything.

As soon as they entered their home, Khushi had an emotional outburst.

“Mom, what’s wrong if I plan my vacation differently than the others? I find peace in Anandnagar. I enjoy doing seva there and I like attending satsang over there. In fact, I wait for my vacation to go to Anandnagar. If I like spiritual life, does that mean that I am not a normal person?”

“Not at all. Who told you that?”

“Is it only the older people who have the right to attend satsang? Why does age matter in attending satsang?”

“Not at all! You are lucky that you are getting all this at a very young age.”

“Then, why don’t these people understand? Why do they say negative things behind my back? I only go there during vacation and then the rest of the year I have to live with these people. It is tough, mom! I am not able to face them. Sometimes I feel that instead of going through all this, I should just go along with their plan. That way, I don’t have to listen to their negative talks about me. That way, I don’t have to live in the fear of, “What will people say?”

“Then, why don’t these people understand? Why do they say negative things behind my back? I only go there during vacation and then the rest of the year I have to live with these people. It is tough, mom!”

“Oh dear... So many questions? I will not be able to resolve them. But yes! Let me show you something which will provide an answer to all your questions.” Saying this, Khushi’s mom played a satsang video on her iPad.

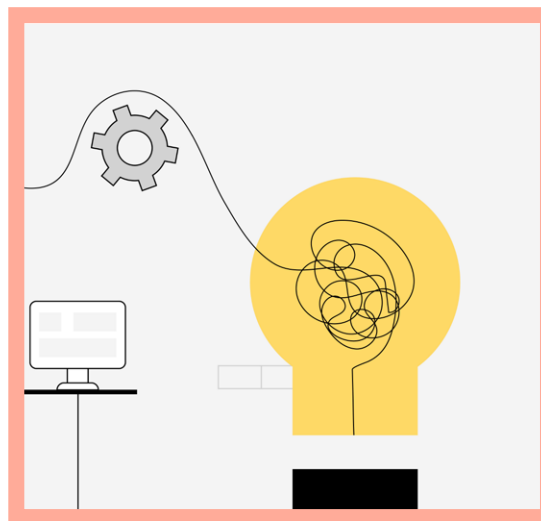
The Gnani's Scientific Vision

Questioner: If I have to make a decision or want to do something, then there is a lot of societal pressure. I feel pressured that it should look good in society, or it should look good to my relatives or people around me.

Niruma: That is our belief. That is also one type of ego that, “What will society think about me?” If we look bad, then our ego gets hurt, and if we look good, then our ego becomes elevated. It's just ego.

What is society? We ourselves have created it. No one comes and says anything to us, but 99% of the time, it is just us who feel that, ‘This will not look good. What will others say? What if they say something?’ No one is free to tell us or even look at us. But, we feel that people will say something. And, in some situations, if someone says something like,

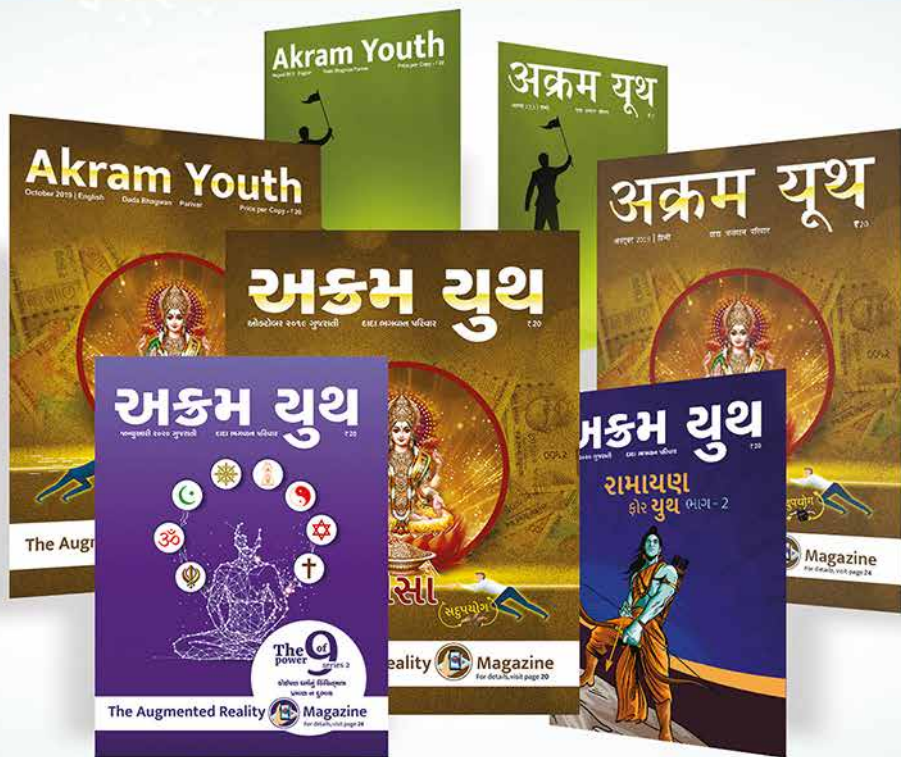
‘Why are you doing this? What you are doing is wrong.’ At that time, we should check within ourselves to ensure that we are right and we are not doing anything that hurts others. Then, why should we be afraid of anyone? Why can't we face society boldly? We can only do so if we are on the right path... It makes sense if we are on the wrong path. But, if we are doing something good, if we are doing something for our Soul, if we are doing something for our own satisfaction without hurting others or without causing damage to others, then where is the need to fear anyone? For what reason? Yes, we should ask ourselves, ‘Am I really doing something wrong? Am I going on the wrong path? Am I involved in any wrong doings? Am I taking



something that is not rightfully mine? Am I taking away someone's money? Am I doing any of these?’ If we are not doing any of these, then, we are correct. Go ahead! And we want to follow the path of the pure Soul. That is the ultimate thing. If we are following this path and society is talking about us, they are doing so from their viewpoint, ‘What you are doing is not right.’ But, internally if we feel that, ‘What I am doing is correct. I am making the best use of my human life,’ then we do not need to pay attention to any objections from anyone. Don't bother. Go ahead! If our inner pure Soul accepts it, then there is no problem. If it is wrong, then our inner Soul will tell us that ‘What you are doing is wrong. You should not do it.’

Akram Youth Magazine

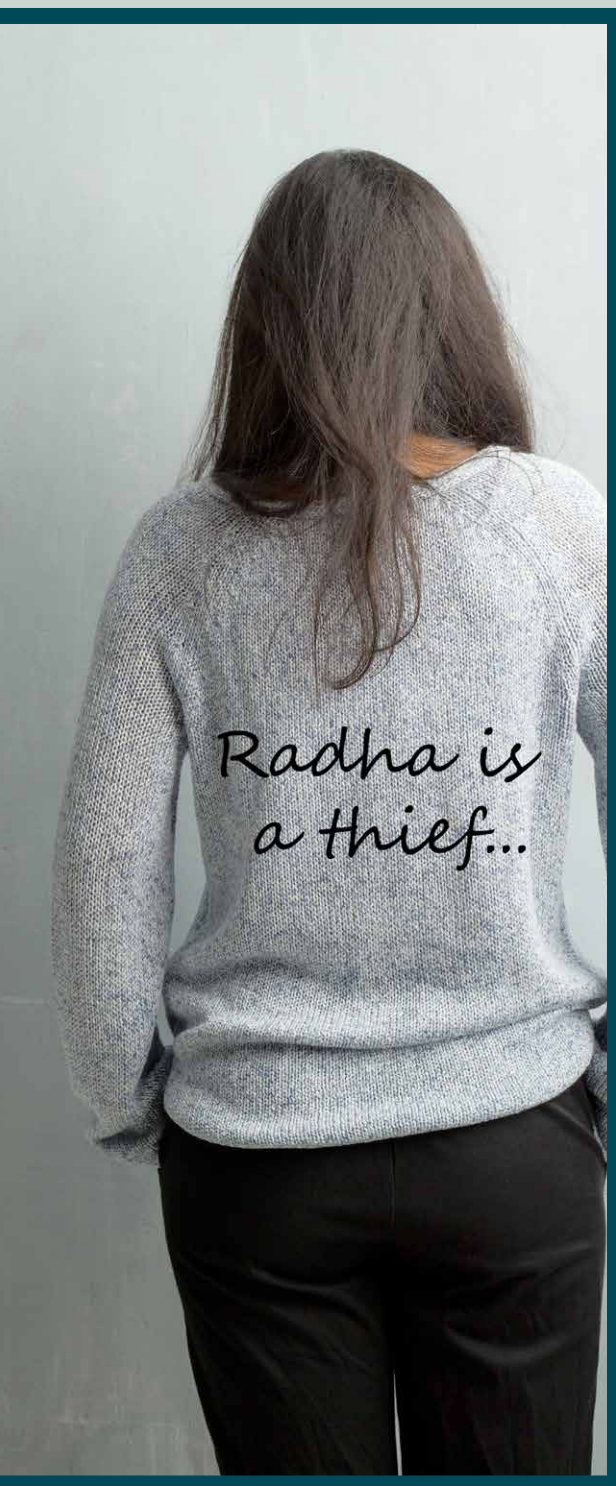
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Don't Get Affected

If it is written, 'Radha is a thief' on the back of Radha's shirt and people annoy her by saying, "Radha is a thief," what should she do? Should she get annoyed?

She should understand, they are saying what they see from their viewpoint. She should try to find out, what are the facts, why are people saying this?

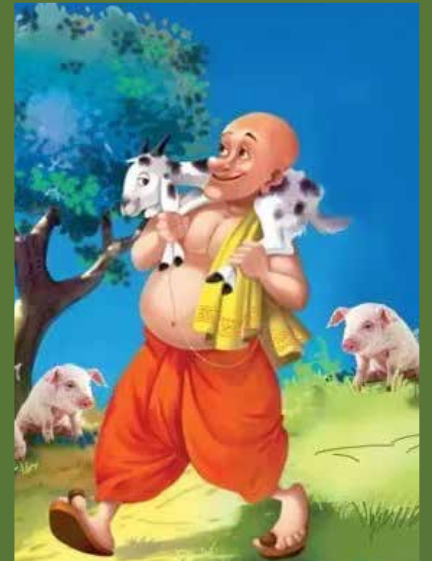


We have heard the story where everyone teased the rat that had seven tails by calling him “seven tailed.”

Do we get affected anywhere just like this rat? Pujyashree tells us not to get affected. We should listen closely to see if it really is our mistake, and improve if it is.

In the same way, you may have heard the story about the Brahmin and the goat. Once a Brahmin was carrying a goat on his shoulders. On the road, three thugs saw him and tried to steal the goat with a ploy. They stood one mile apart and asked, “Hey, you are a Brahmin, how can you carry a dog on your shoulders?”

Twice, the Brahmin replied and said, “This is a goat.” But the third time, the Brahmin started to doubt himself. He assumed that since three people called it a dog, it must be a dog, so he left it then and there. The three thugs took the goat and ate it.



Has it ever happened that just like the Brahmin, somewhere we doubted ourself by listening to others and we let go of our values? We should become strong enough to not get influenced by negative things.

Temporary Certificate

Ridham wasn't getting any sleep today. He would check his Instagram and Twitter profile every minute. He had auditioned for a singing contest a month ago, but he was not selected. He had worked very hard for it and had waited for many years for this opportunity, but he had failed. However, the judge's feedback was very helpful. They had said, "Your voice, attitude, everything is fine, but you still need to work harder on your pitch. Then try again."

But this evening the audition show came on TV. Ridham's failure had become public today. Until today, Ridham was not so sad about not being selected because he was convinced that he would get another chance by working hard again. But after the show was released, he was crushed. This was due to the pile of negative comments on his social media accounts.

"You're a Failure!"

"I had told you not to dream of making a career in music!"

"Terrible singing!"

"Mr. Tone-Deaf, how are you?"

Ridham felt dejected after reading all this. His older brother Smeet was also keeping an eye on Ridham's account. After reading such negative comments, he came to Ridham's room that night and said,

"Ridham, will you listen to me? Put your phone away for a few days. And do not check your messages."

"I know brother! But at least one like will come for my performance. With that hope, I keep checking it over and over again."

"Hmm ... can I ask you something? Will the likes of those people get you selected in the contest?"

"No!" Ridham said.

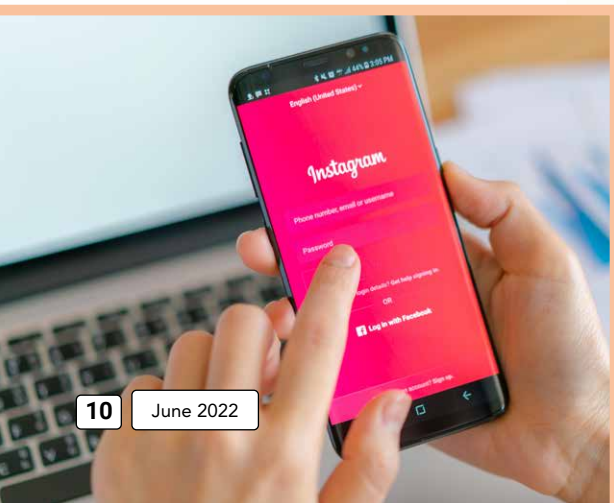
"Then ignore the comments!"

"But ... but brother, what about my music career?"

"It is not like this one failure is the end of your career."

Ridham said nothing.

"OK. Wait ... let me read you a story. A Real Life Story of a Famous Singer!" And Smeet started reading from a website.





A little girl lived in a village in Maharashtra. Her father was a great musician and her mentor. The girl was the eldest of five siblings in the household. But unfortunately for her, her father passed away when she was only thirteen. To run the house, the girl sometimes acted in a drama company, sometimes got a job, and sang some songs for Marathi films. Then a veteran musician advised her to make a career as a singer. He introduced the girl to a famous film producer. The producer called her to a studio in Mumbai to sing a song for one of his films. The veteran musician also went there with her.

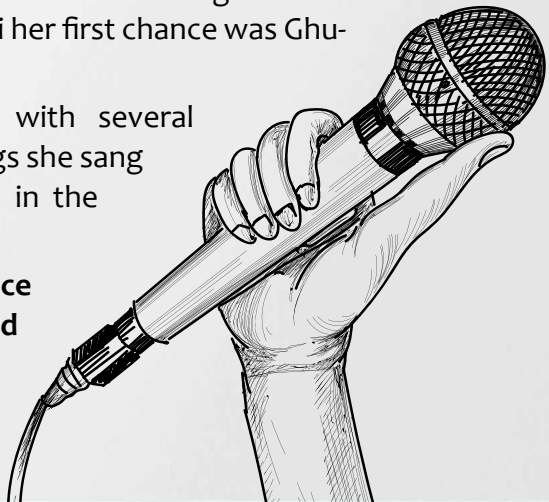
The girl waited in the studio all day without any food or drink. Then the film producer heard her voice, but he immediately rejected her saying, **“This girl's voice is very sharp. She is not suited for the heroine of this film.”**

On the way back, the girl and the musician were going to the same place. So, both were standing at Mumbai's Goregaon station. It was raining heavily. The musician again asked the girl to sing the same song she had sung in the studio. This time he was shocked to hear her sing. He recognized the girl's talent and gave her a chance to sing in another film. Since then, the girl's musical career began, and she has never looked back from then on!

Do you know who that girl is? The one who has been awarded the ‘Bharat Ratna’ and lives in the hearts of millions of people. Lata Mangeshkar. Her father's name was Pandit Dinanath Mangeshkar! And the legendary musician who gave Lataji her first chance was Ghulam Haider.

Later, Lataji was honored with several awards as the best singer. The songs she sang are forever etched in history and in the hearts of many people.

The one whose voice was once rejected as “sharp” was later called the “Nightingale” of India!



Ridham was very surprised to hear this. “I knew about Lataji, but I didn't know her life story!”

“It's good there was no Twitter or Instagram in Lataji's time,” Smeet said. Otherwise she would also have been harassed by such trolls. Why are these people important, Ridham? They give one certificate today, tear it up tomorrow, and then give another one. Why should we get affected by this? Why do we take such a temporary certificate seriously?” said Smeet.

Listening to Smeet's words, Ridham opened his Twitter account and changed his status to “Practicing for the

Next Audition!” And logged out of all social media accounts and stopped checking them.

Then Ridham got to practicing music day and night and was selected in the audition two years later! The day his show aired on TV, Smeet came and congratulated Ridham.

“Congrats Brother! Look at how many followers you gained overnight!”

“I don't want to look, brother. What is the credibility of these people's certificates? A college certificate is better than this. It never changes!”

Both brothers burst out laughing.





Societal Influence



Societal influence will show South to be North,
whereas the Gnani's influence will show
the exact thing. - Dadashri



The Gnani's Influence

The Biggest Disease,

What Will People Say?

This is a story from many years ago. There was a king. One day two thugs came to his court. They said to the king, “King, the praises of your kingdom are sung in this country and abroad. That is why we have come from abroad to meet you.”

“We have a magical power that allows us to create magical garments that only intelligent people can see. The fools cannot see it. Maharaj! Who else but you would be worthy to wear such a magical garment?”

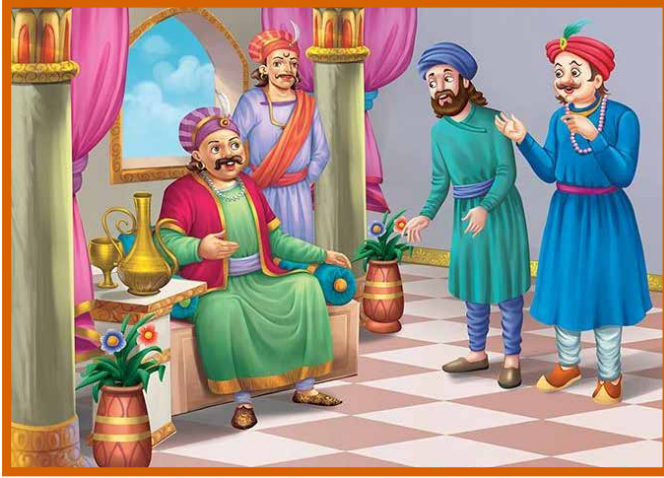
Hearing his own praise, the King was elated with joy and commissioned the two thugs to make the magical coat. The thugs were put up in the palace's guest house. Then every day they began to ask the King for gold, silver, diamonds, and pearls to embroider the coat. The King gave it and one day both of the thugs sent a message to the King that today they would be bringing his coat. They went to the palace and put a coat on the King.

What is this? The King could not see the coat! Seeing his face, the thug immediately said, “King! You are the

only one in the whole state who is intelligent enough to see our hard work. Tell me, how does this coat feel?” The King thought to himself, ‘If I say I don’t see the coat, it will prove that I am not intelligent. Then what about my reputation amongst my people?’ So, he lied and said that the coat was very nice and gave a lot of gold coins to both of the thugs.

Then the thug said to the king, “King, go to your court today wearing this coat. Let it be known how intelligent the ministers are!” The King liked the idea. Coming to the court, he announced, “I am wearing a magical coat today that has been made by these two artists. The peculiarity of this coat is that only those who are intelligent will be able to see this coat. Tell me, how does this coat look on me?”

‘If I tell the King that I do not see



‘If I tell the King that I do not see the coat, what will the King and the other ministers think of me?’

the coat, what will the King and the other ministers think of me? Maybe they will kick me out of the court.’ With such thoughts, each and every minister remained silent. The King was happy in his mind that his ministers saw his coat.

Then the King decided to march in the kingdom to announce this magical coat and measure the intelligence of his people. The King stood on a chariot in the middle of the road, and the crowds of people were standing on either side. The rumor that a fool would not see the coat had already spread in the state. So no one spoke out of the fear that, “If I speak, then people will consider me a fool.”

But a small child was there holding his mother's finger. He asked his moth-

er, “Mother... why hasn't the King worn a coat today?” Frightened, the mother pressed her hand on the baby's mouth and silenced him. When the King saw this, he had doubts in his mind.

The King came to the court and discussed with his ministers. He came to know that the coat was not visible to anyone. No one spoke out of the fear that, “If I speak, what will people think of me?” The King immediately figured out the two thugs’ ploy and ordered them to be brought to the court, but they had fled from the palace guest house.

Many times, we too are foolish like the King. Right? That is why it is said, “The biggest disease is, What will people say?”

If You Fear People Then...

Rishi enters a restaurant.

Friends: Oh! Rishi, you came? We thought you weren't coming.

Rishi: I made up stuff to my mother to come here. If she finds out that I went to a hookah bar...

Tushar: Come on. There is nothing to be afraid of.

Karan: Right. This isn't alcohol or cigarettes. This is harmless hookah.

Vivek: Hey dude, try a puff. This is a rose flavored hookah, you will enjoy it.

Rishi (in his mind): If I say no this time, these people will give me the title of being a 'Chicken!'

As soon as he goes to try it, he sees an uncle from his community talking to the manager, so he tries to hide his face.

Rishi: Oh no, Vinod Uncle! He came here to do the interior too?

Tushar: What happened Rishi?

Rishi: My neighbor is talking with the manager. If he sees me, the whole society will come to know!

Karan: Come on, what's there to be afraid of?



Rishi is confused because he is having conflicting thoughts in his mind.

Rishi (in his mind): Yes ... what am I doing wrong? ... What is wrong in just trying?

- No no, I lied to come here ... and this hookah ... what should I do?

At that moment a notification comes on Rishi's phone

Rishi (in mind): Oh! Thank God.

Rishi (to friends): Sorry friend, something urgent has come up, I have to go.

As Rishi is about to leave Vinod Uncle calls him.

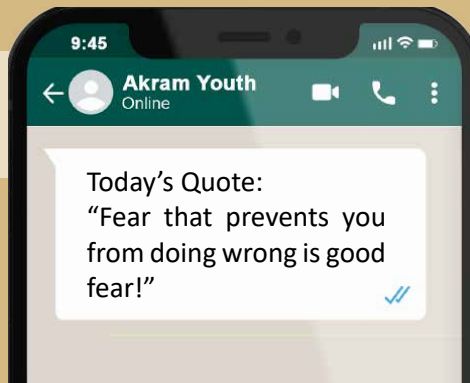
Vinod Uncle: Hello Rishi, Son... why are you here?

Rishi: Hi uncle ... I was just leaving.

Vinod Uncle (in mind): I just saw this boy coming ... so why did he leave suddenly?

Vinod Uncle opens the notification on his phone.

Vinod Uncle (with a smile):
Rishi got the right understanding at the right time!



Friends, we saw that instead of thinking about, “What will people say?” we should proceed towards our goal. We shouldn’t be afraid of people when it comes to our goals. But what if this same fear of people prevents us from doing wrong? For example, here Rishi avoided trying the hookah. So that fear is good. That fear will save us from doing things that we would be ashamed of.



Niruma's Unflinching Resolve!

Niruma was born to a Vaishnav, Patel family. Based on her family religion, there was never any discussion about aversion towards worldly pleasures. So, when Niruma completely surrendered to Dadashri and when she used to travel for Dadashri's seva, many of her relatives used to find this inappropriate. Niruma's parents and her brothers believed in Dada, but her relatives felt that after becoming an M.D. doctor, why is she renouncing everything for Dada's seva? What is she thinking?

When Niruma went to London with Dada for the first time, a few of her cousins who lived in London came to meet her. Dada's satsang was in progress and Niruma was sitting near Dada. They bowed down to Dada from a distance and told Niruma. "We want to talk to you for five minutes." They called Niruma to the side and said, "Many people call themselves God. Why are you

trapped in all this? After being so highly educated, why are you doing this? Make some good use of your education. If nothing else, just do charity.”

Niruma told all her cousins, “I like this. This is my choice. I don’t like anything else.” So, they went to Niruma’s elder brother and said, “Why don’t you say something to your sister? She is going down the wrong path. She is so highly educated, but she is blindly just roaming around with Dada. Why don’t you say something to her?” Niruma’s elder brother told them openly, “Mind your own business! I like whatever our sister is doing. I am proud of her. You all don’t have any say in this.” From then on everyone stopped. After that, no one ever said anything to Niruma. On the contrary, whenever Niruma used to go to London, they used to specially go to meet her.

Such was Niruma’s unflinching resolve! Once she set a goal, no one could shake it, no matter what they said.



Gnani With Youth

Who is Your Compass?

Questioner: Dadashri says “The Gnani’s influence is the compass which will help us achieve final liberation, whereas societal influence will cause us to wander in the worldly life.” So, I want to ask how we can go to see the Gnani in person all the time. I don't know how we can follow the Gnani's influence. How can we practically progress in this?

Pujyashree: Have you taken Gnan?

Questioner: Yes.

Pujyashree: Then, have you received the five Agnas?

Questioner: Yes.

Pujyashree: That is enough! Follow according to the five Agnas. And, if you want to understand more, read Dada’s books, Aptavanis! There are many books. Start with reading the small books. They are all Gnanvani. These Gnanvani are your compass. Do you accept your mistake after reading the book, “Fault is of the Sufferer?”

Questioner: Yes.

Pujyashree: When you have any suffering, you will feel that the fault is of



The Gnani's influence is the compass which will help us achieve the ultimate thing, whereas societal influence will cause us to wander around in the worldly life.

the sufferer, so there is no need to find faults in others. That is equivalent to following the Gnani's influence.

Questioner: Pujyashree, I am not always able to set it that way.

Pujyashree: Not always being able to set it is what we have brought from our past life. Now, we have to start from there. Can you set that understanding half a percent of the time?

Questioner: Yes.

Pujyashree: Start from there. Reach one percent from half a percent. From one, go to one and a half percent. Keep on increasing slowly.

Questioner: But Pujyashree, sometimes there is a lot of peer pressure. Most of my decisions are based off of peer pressure. So, sometimes I don't do what I like.

Pujyashree: 'Peer pressure is the compass which will make you wander in this worldly life.' Don't forget that! And the Gnani's influence is the compass which will take you to moksha. So, hold on to this one sentence properly. Then if you say, "I am not able to follow this." Hey, didn't you just decide that you want to follow according to the Gnani's influence! What does the Gnani say? Check, 'Is this happening to You or to the neighbor (file 1)?' To the neighbor. So why should You cry? Guide Your neighbor, 'Sister, don't be sad. Follow according to what Dada says. You will reach moksha!'

STATS

1100+ YMHT Boys

Camps held at **18 locations**

Summer CAMP

For 13 to 21 years Youth Boys



Our website: youth.dadabhagwan.org

Summer CAMP

For 13 to 16 years Youth Girls

 **STATS**

1000+ YMHT girls
Camps held at **12 locations**



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June 2022

Year: 10, Issue: 2

Cont. Issue: 110

Poem

Jaat Jaat na musafar ahi, sansaar moto chauk...
Samajya vagar vichaarvu nahi, shu kaheshe lok...?

Kahe saara ne kahe kharaab, abhi boola abhi fok...
Je pan raste chaalo tame, vaandho leshe kok ne kok...

Loksangnya e chaali, bhavo ni bhatkaaman kari che...
Narya dukhma lagaade sukh, aa bhutaaval nari che...

Maahilaa ne pucho shu che dhyey? Pachi vadho aagal...
Lokonu vichaari ne, have joovu nathi kadiye paachal...

Pratyaksh Gnani aapni divadaandi, Gnan che prakash...
Antim heet che Gnani Sangnya e, raakhvo sampurna vishwas...



By Dada's Youth

Send your suggestions and feedback at: akramyouth@dadabhagwan.org
Printed and Published by Dimple Mehta on behalf of Mahavideh Foundation-Owner.
Printed at : Amba Offset, B-99, GIDC, Sector-25, Gandhinagar – 382025.