

jai gajanan

Shankar Balwant Pandit



Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon

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Publisher's Note

Sant Dasganu Maharaj wrote the saga of Saint Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon in the 'Ovi' poetic form in Marathi in the year 1939A.D. This composition named 'Shree Gajanan Vijay' is very popular in Maharashtra.

It was translated in English prose for the devotees who could not read Marathi in 1980 A.D. by Mr. G.N. Naik as 'Gajanan Vijay Granth'. Since it narrated the story of Shree Gajanan Maharaj it was well accepted by the readers.

Early this year Mr. Shankar B. Pandit, a devotee from New York expressed a desire to render these chronicles in a poetic form in English, based on the two earlier publications.

This English translation captures the beauty and grace of the original Marathi work and makes for felicitous reading. The growing number of devotees of Shree Gajanan Maharaj who are unable to read the text in Marathi or Hindi will benefit materially and spiritually when they read this work with faith. There is a promise made at the conclusion of this work to all devotees - that of fulfillment of desires but that is actually only the beginning. Shree Gajanan Maharaj was the living embodiment of the Parabrahma, The miracles He performed were to jolt devotees out of their slumber and lead them forward to the divinity which is the rightful inheritance of every human being.

By the grace of Maharaj 'Jai Gajanan' is ready on the 100th samadhi anniversary of the great saint.

Publisher's Note

Mrs. Geetha Ravichandran, from Nagpur made valuable suggestions and corrections in the writing.

Dr. Mrs. Manju M. Phadke of Mumbai spared her valuable time for the editing.

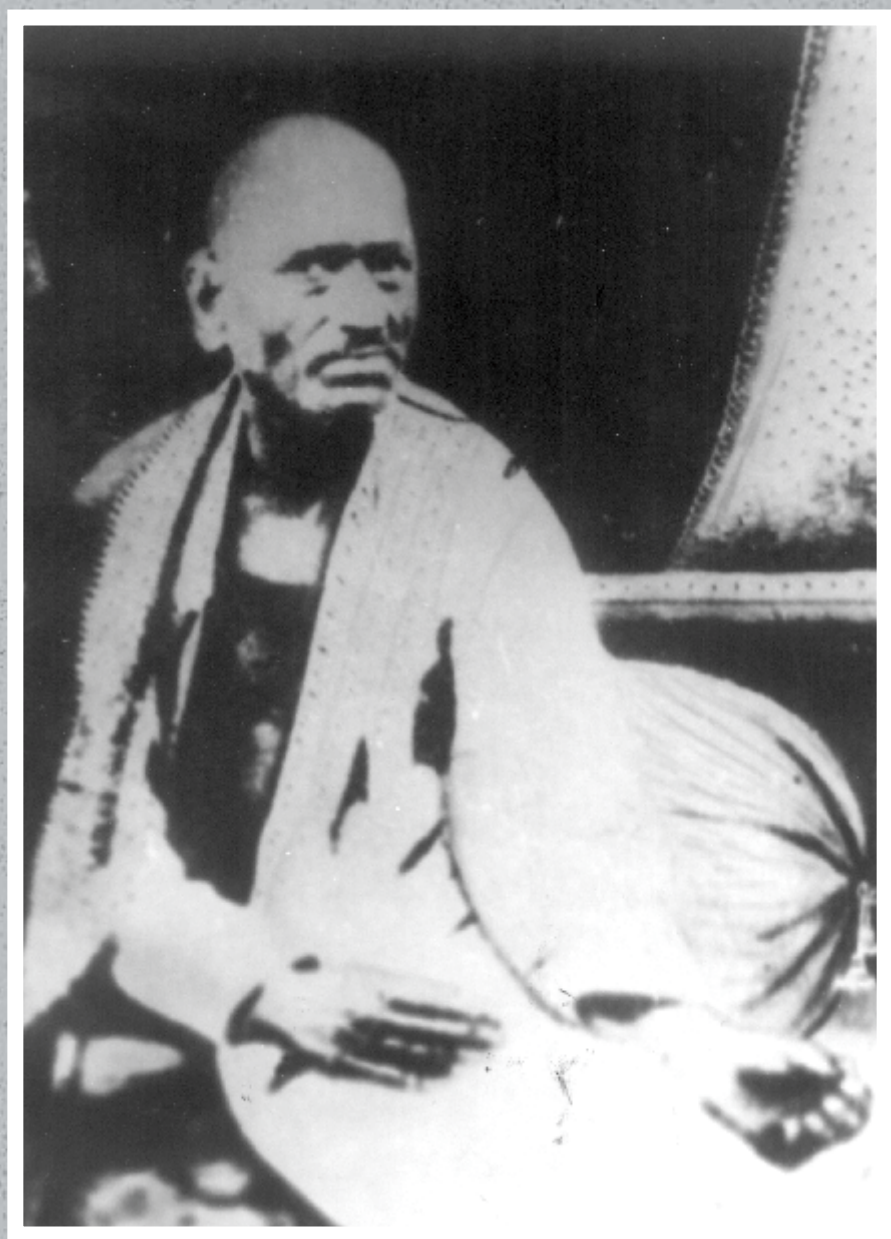
Late Dr. Anand Goverdhan in spite of his deteriorating health went through the first edition of 'Jai Gajanan' and made valuable suggestions and corrections to the text. These are incorporated in the second edition. It was the grace of Maharaj that gave him strength in his fatal illness in bringing perfection to the second edition.

The poetic form in English has seen the light of the day through their relentless assistance. Our thanks to them and to our layout designer and printer Mr. Vivek Vaidya for their selfless help.

Shri. Shivshankarbhau Patil

Managing Trustee

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan,
Shegaon, Dist-Buldhana





Preface

Nests of birds in my backyard remind me of life, of desires, aspirations, hopes, struggles, freedom and joy. These nests are lined up with warm love, affection and a will to survive. The chirping of the birds, seemingly meaningless, conveys this message sublime.

Human mind like these nests has these tender linings and attributes and yet it is blessed with many more traits. It enjoys thoughtful distinction between right and wrong, devotional inclination to Saints and God. It has a pious stance towards others and the ability to convey feelings. It can guide a person to relate himself by speech, writing, painting and songs.

Communities of the world have used these elements to express, among other things their gratitude to God and Saints, praising them for kind bountiful blessings. Each culture has its own way of expressing devotion to God and Saints through songs and prayers.

Maharashtra has a long lineage of saints who not only brought God closer to the common man but also inspired him on how to lead a meaningful life. These saints created an abundance of ever-lasting sacred texts. Similarly, many devotees wrote about these saints and their achievements. One such text is "Shree Gajanan Vijay" written by Shree Dasganu Maharaj.

Preface

Many scholars have translated Vedic texts such as Gita, Upanishad's and Veda's to English for greater accessibility to mankind in general. However, many texts especially those written in local languages have not been translated so far.

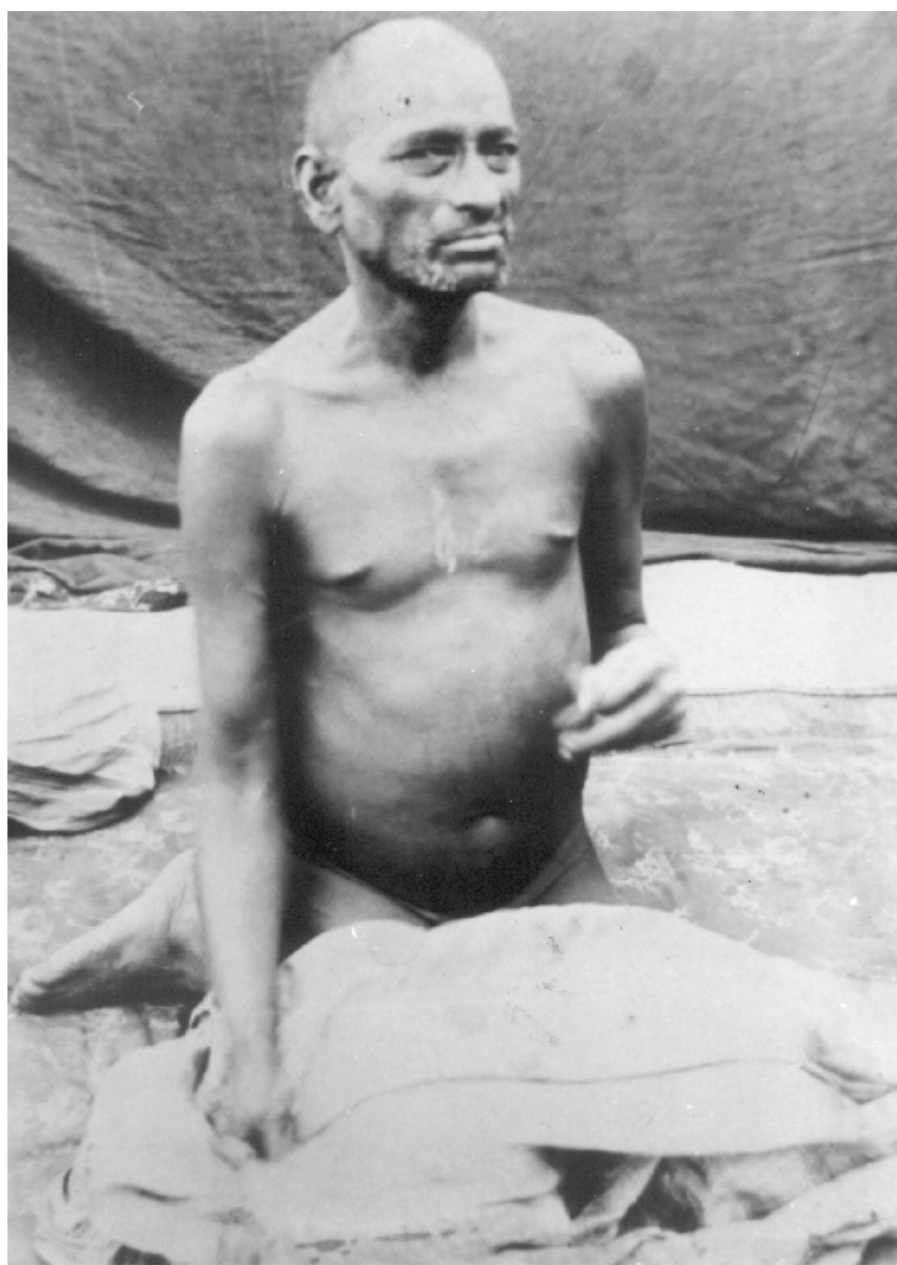
As a humble contribution to this endeavor I took on the daunting task of transforming the "Gajanan Vijay" in English in poetic form. Translating the rich vocabulary of Shree Dasganu Maharaj was a challenging mission. The English translation by Shree G.N. Naik was helpful in this respect.

I remembered the saying 'A journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step.' And I started the walk with Shree Gajanan Maharaj as my guide. Many a times, I felt that he is standing behind me as a tutor suggesting correct words and rhymes.

Vocabularies of languages differ. Sanskrit and Marathi words like Darshan, Naivedya, Pradakshna, Dakshina, Abhishek did not yield one word translations. Rhyming for many Marathi words and names was not possible at many places. Please excuse me for such lapses. I hope devotees of Shree Gajanan Maharaj will appreciate this effort.

I have yet to meet a friend who has not liked the nests in my backyard.

Shankar Balwant Pandit



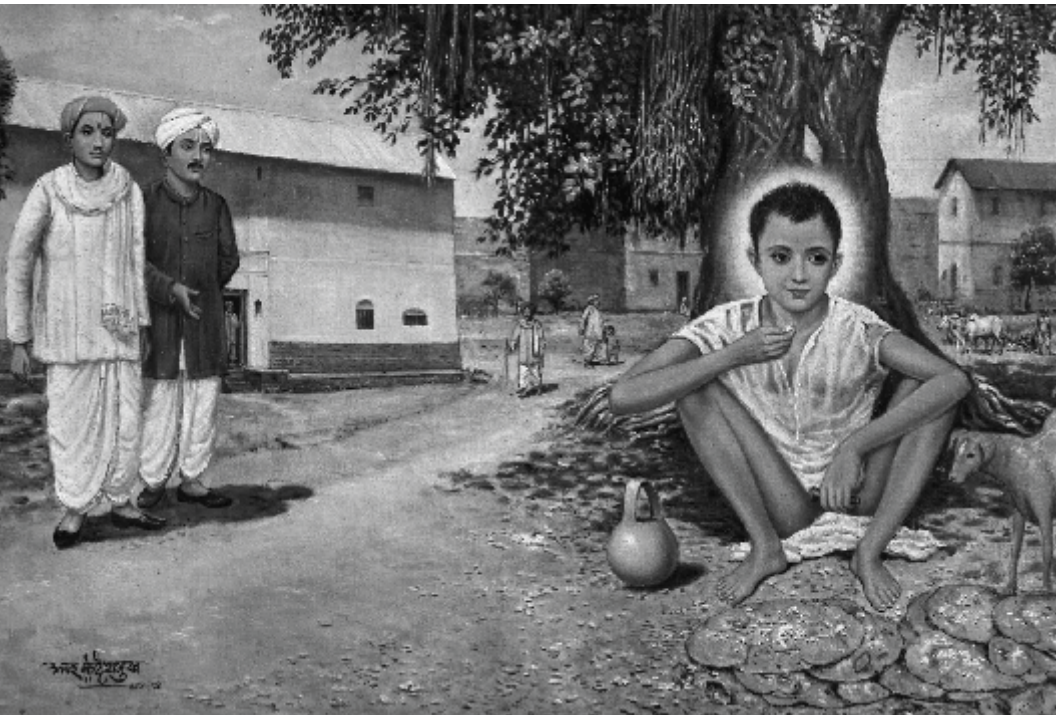


jai gajanan

॥ ... Anant Koti Brahmand Nayak ... ॥
॥ ... Maharajadheeraaj Yogiraj ... ॥
॥ ... Parabrahma Satchidanand ... ॥
॥ ... Bhakta Pratipalak Samartha Sadguru ... ॥
॥ ... Shegaon Nivasi Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... ॥

॥ Prarambha ... The Beginning ॥

Chapter One



Only an expert jewel trader
Can sort out jewels from pebbles.
A thousand people had gone that way
Yet none could detect the actual.
Bankatlal stepped forward
And asked the saint in an humble mood
Why pick up morsels from leftovers?
We will get you good tasty food.

Chapter 01

Shree Ganeshaya namah.

God of bounteous glory, and everlastingly victorious
I bow down to you.
Learned men and saints
Revere you at the launch of new events.
Obstacles blaze away in a flame,
Like cotton near the burning fire.
I bow down to you to seek your blessings
To make this writing poetic and inspiring.
I do not possess qualities of a poet
Yet your blessings are my greatest assets ... 1

Now my obeisance to Devi Sharada
Idol of poets, born of Brahma,
I bow down to you O Goddess mild
I am just an innocent child.
I request you to help me uphold
My self-confidence manifold.
The lame can run up a mountain
And the dumb deliver an oration
With your kind sanction.
Please help me in this presentation ... 2

I beseech the blessings of the Primeval God,
God Pandurang of Pandhari
And seek his blessings in writing this story.
He is the Creator and Preserver.
He commands this universe

And He is the ultimate power.
He is the one who receives attributes ... 3

Yet appears without any attributes.
I owe Him my existence.
He is omnipresent. I am insignificant.
As Rama He blessed the monkeys
To gain prowess at war.
As Krishna He sanctified the cowherds
With powers so magical.
Every thing happens as he disposes ... 4

God! Saints have rightly said
That money cannot buy blessings.
Earnest devotion can.
That's why I am at your feet.
God Panduranga! Be with me.
Help me write this biography ... 5

God Bhavanivara, Nilkantha, Gangadhara,
Omkar roopa, Trimbakeshwara. Bless me.
Your blessings are like touch-stone.
Which turns iron into gold.
I am just a piece of iron.
Please lend me that shine
And help me in composing these lines ... 6

Deity of my family, Jaganmata of Kolhapur
Bring me lucky tidings to accomplish this endeavor.
Devi Tulja Bhavani
Place your gracious hand on my head
To bring me good fortune
In completing this pledge ... 7

I, now bow down to God Dattatraya
To grant me inspiration to write this saga.
Salutations to sages
Shandilya, Vashistha, Parashar and Gautam.
Shree Shankaracharya, shining like the Sun.

To all sages who should guide my fingers
To get the writing done ... 8

Saving us from the turbulence of life,
Saints Gahini, Nivrutti, Dyaneshwar,
Tukaram, Ramdas alike.
Please accept my salutations
Bless me in fulfilling this exposition.
Saibaba of Shirdi sansthan,
Guru Waman Shasrti, my mentor
Wipe out my unease and help me write this treatise ... 9

Fond affection makes one speak.
I am a child and you my mother.
I am just a pen which writes,
You are the energy in the letters ... 10

Now devotees, please pay attention.
Listen to the life story of a Saint admirable,
With absolute concentration.
In this mundane world, Saints are God's incarnation.
They brook no avarice
And are harbingers of salvation ... 11

They represent all that is benign,
Is sacred and saturated with sanctity.
They harbor no deceit
And walk us down the righteous path.
God Himself feels indebted
To devotees who respect saintly men ... 12

Let us now sing the Glory of Shree Gajanan.
Only Bharat and no other nation
Has such a great saintly congregation
Fulfilling us with satisfaction.
Kudos to our land called Jambudweep,
From time immemorial
It has been brimming over with happiness.
And has never lacked joyousness ... 13

This land is blessed with the touch of feet
Of great saints for a million years.
Narad, Dhruv, Kayadhukumar
Uddhav, Sudama, Subhadraavar
Mahabali, Anjani Kumar
And Dharmaraja unrivalled ... 14

Here was born Shree Shankaracharya,
The Jagadguru, well-versed in philosophy
Who saved the wayward.
The great sage Adhokshaj,
Indebted to Madhwa, Vallabh and Ramanuj
Saved religious heritage
With his own valor ... 15

Narsi Mehta, Tulsidas, Kabir, Kamal and Surdas
Gaurang Mahaprabhu of distinction
All beyond my comprehension.
God Vishnu gulped poison
Because of Mira's devotion ... 16

The treatise Navanath Bhaktisar
Sings about Gorakh, Machchendra, Jalandar.
Saints attaining distinction through simple devotion
Were Namdev, Narahari,
Sakhu, Kanhopatra and Jani ... 17

Also Chokha, Savata, Kurmadas
Damajipant, the pious class.
God appeared as a low caste to settle his accounts fast.
Poet Mahipati has sung tributes
To various saints of attributes,
Mukundraj and Janardan,
Bodhala, Nipat Niranjana ... 18

Please read about them all
In Bhakti Vijay and Bhaktimala.
I have sang eulogies to three more saints
Presenting their precepts.

I, now consider my-self fortunate
To bring to you the tale
Of Shree Gajanan Maharaj
In great detail ... 19

I saw him, a saintly avatar
Near the town of Akot.
I am writing about him so late.
But the locket in a necklace is woven last.
In the tahasil of Khamgaon
In Vidharbha Region
Resides the town of Shegaon,
A small trading division ... 20

Now it has no rival,
With Saint Gajanan's arrival.
Like a lotus in a pond, He blossoms all over.
Wafting a sweet fragrance
That fills the entire world
He is a diamond from the Shegaon mines.
With my small talent I write of him ... 21

Please be one with his glory
And surrender at his feet
Don't forget you will attain salvation
When you read it closely.
The biography like a rain laden cloud.
Will make you dance like a peacock
As the stories shower happiness on you ... 22

Privileged are Shegaon residents
To be with a great saint.
Good deeds alone can invoke such sanctions.
Saints are superior to the God of creation ... 23

Ramachandra Patil Visited Pandharpur
In one of his semi-annual tours.
Asked me to relate stories
About Sant Gajanan's blessings.

I too had nurtured the thought
Of writing about the lives of saints.
But it did not see the light of day
Till His grace showed the way ... 24

No one can know the designs of saints
Like saint Gajanan Maharaj
Who prompted Ramchandra
To put forth this proposal.
Gajanan Maharaj has been a jewel
Among all saints so vast.
None knows where he came from.
No one knows of his life past ... 25

No one knows of his caste, creed or place
Like none knows the origin of this Universe.
Appreciate the brilliance of a diamond
While you search not for the mine it came from.
He appeared in Shegaon in the prime of his youth
In Shake eighteen hundred,
Magh seventh of waning moon ... 26

Some say he came from Sajjangad,
The place where Sant Ramdas lived.
There is no rationale to this possibility
Though such a likelihood exists.
With corruption and misery all around
May be Ramdas came in reincarnated
As Sant Gajanan
To save an oppressed generation ... 27

Saints have reawakened in the past,
Gorakhnath from a dustbin.
Kanifa from the elephant's ear
And Changdev from deep waters green.
Sant Gajanan Maharaj had visible traits
Of a saintly individual so great.
You will realize it strong
As you read this story along ... 28

Shree Gajanan appeared in Shegaon town
In Magh on seventh of the waning moon.
A devotee Devidas had arranged a party
In celebration of his son's thread ceremony.
Leaf-platters with unused food were thrown
Out of the door, Sant Gajanan was seen
Eating Morsels left over ... 29

He had worn just a shirt,
Had a dry gourd as his pitcher,
A clay pipe for his smoke
And nothing else all together.
He had an aura around him,
Eyes focused on his nose indicating a saintly trait.
He had the radiance of the morning glow ... 30

He was almost all bare.
Had no expression of any care.
He displayed no special taste for food
All the fare appeared good.
He searched for morsels from the remnants
For him everything was fair ... 31

His action conveyed to the villagers
That food is the supreme spirit
All religious writings say so He reiterated the script.
Bankatlal Agarwal and his friend
Damodarpanth Kulkarni were surprised at this
While passing by the scene ... 32

They talked to each other,
'It looks so odd. If he was hungry
He should have asked for food.
Devidas is a pious man
He would never turn a guest away.
A plateful would have been sent his way.' ... 33

Said Bankatlal to his companion,
'Let us stand by and watch his actions

Superficially genuine saints
Often present an obscure trend.
His actions do appear queer
Deep inside him is knowledge pure
He must be a jewel stack of wisdom rare.' ... 34

Only an expert jewel trader
Can sort out jewels from pebbles.
A thousand people had gone that way
Yet none could detect the actual.
Bankatlal stepped forward
And asked the saint in a humble mood
Why pick up morsels from leftovers?
We will get you good tasty food ... 35

The saint looked up.
He looked bright and healthy
With a body muscular and a gaze so steady.
Self content the saint so great
Nodded his consent
Within an instant ... 36

A plateful of food was brought
The saint mixed it in one lot
And consumed it in one shot
Unmindful of the taste he got.
One who is beyond such flavors
Doesn't much care
Like a ruler receiving
A small favor ... 37

Bankatlal looked up to Damodar,
It was really an error to call the saint insane.
He seeks salvation as it appears.
The sun was burning hot.
Birds even did not move out
The saint looked cool and collected,
Undaunted by the environment ... 38

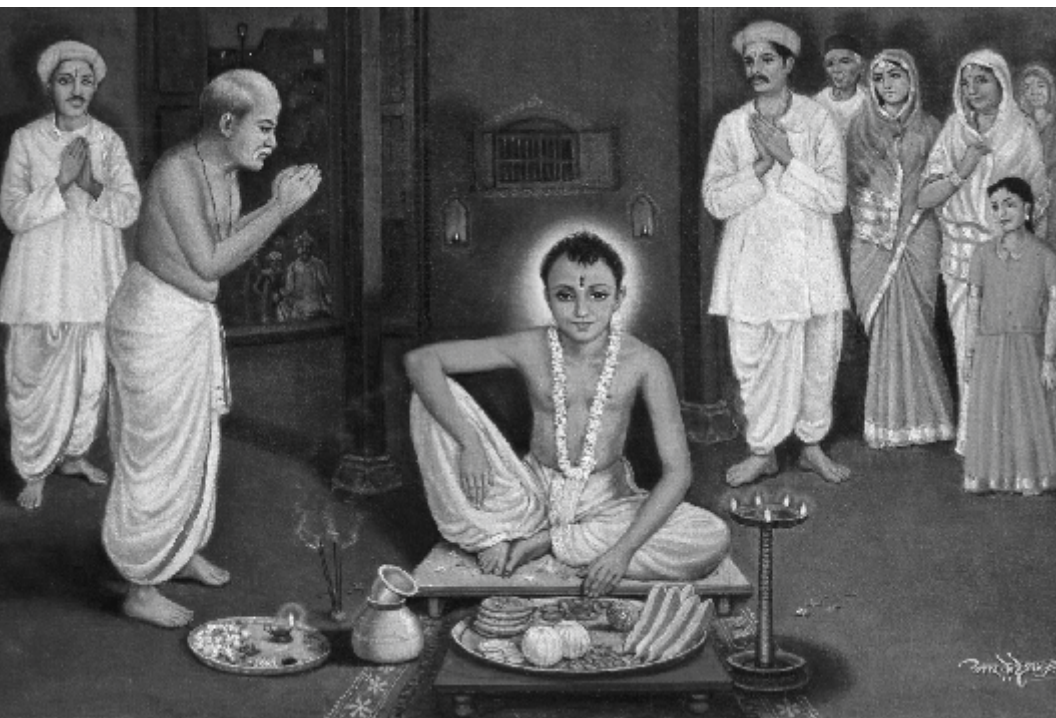
'There is no water in your pitcher.
May I get you some if you so desire?
The saint flashed a smile.
Bring some. It's worthwhile
To gulp a few sips
After such a fulfilling meal.
You look clever enough to understand
This natural demand ... 39

Said Bankatlal, we feel so fortunate.
To get him some water.
They went in the house for a pitcher.
In the meanwhile, the saint went to the cattle pond
And swallowed a few gulps
Of the muddy water ... 40

Water is like Brahma. It never gets polluted.
It is the way you see it
Said the learned saint.
Bankat and his friend were impressed.
They tried to bow down to him
But he suddenly left ... 41

Happenings there after
Are in the next chapter.
Let this saga of the saint bring delight to readers.
This is what Dasganu desires
And asks God with folded hands.
Chapter one ends here ... 42

Chapter Two



Devotees gathered from all over
At Bankatlal's house,
To have a glimpse of Gajanan
Just as they congregate
At religious places
On auspicious dates.
Gajanan at Shegon stood on a rock
Of determination like
Vithoba at Pandharpur

Chapter 02

Shree Ganeshaya namah

Bless me O God! from Chandrabhaga banks,
Consort of Rukmini
Lord of creation.
Nothing is worthwhile without your sanction.
Like a human body without a soul ... 1

A lake looks pleasant because of the water in it.
The juicy core of a fruit
Lends essence to the rugged cover.
Friend of the destitute
Help me in this endeavor ... 2

In the last chapter we read
How the saint left abruptly.
Bankatlal was miserable.
The saint's radiant personality
Got fixed in his memory.
He pined for Shree Gajanan
Forgetting food, water
And even the daily routine ... 3

He could not share
His mental disturbance with anyone.
Not even with his father.
His search continued
Every day through out the Shegaon town ... 4

Bankat's father Bhavaniram
Noticed anxiety writ large
On his face every evening.
He then asked Bankatlal
What bothers you after all?
With all mundane comforts
Stacked around you ... 5

Bankatlal brushed aside the query
And continued his search
Until he told his neighbor
Ramajipant Deshmukh, a pious citizen,
Of his meeting and his ardent search
For Shree Gajanan ... 6

Very few are blessed by good deeds of their past
To get to see a saint so rare.
Go. Search him out and take me to him.
His sight I too desire ... 7

Days rolled by.
A religious Kirtankar, Govindbua Taklikar
Visited Shegaon's Shiv Mandir.
Devotees from far and near
Assembled there,
Pious songs to hear ... 8

Bankat and his tailor friend Pitamber
Were in the congregation
Where accidentally
They saw Shree Gajanan.
They were delighted
As when a miser strikes gold
Or a peacock
At the sight of a rain cloud ... 9

They approached the saint.
Bowing to him they said
'Do you want anything to eat.'

'Yes, some 'bhakri' and 'choon'
From the gardener's House
Would be a great treat.'
From the gardener they brought him bhakari
And seasoned chick pea flour choon ... 10

'Get me some water
In this pitcher from that stream near'
'No, no, the flow there is polluted.
I'll get you some fresh from the reservoir.'
'No! Dip the pitcher in the flow.
Don't fill it by hand. Is it clear?' ... 11

After the discussions Pitamber was at the stream.
There was no place for the pitcher to dip.
Yet when it touched the surface of the river
A hole formed in the riverted
And fresh water gushed into the pitcher.
It was a miracle ... 12

He tried it again and was surprised to see
That when the pitcher touched the stream
Water turned utterly clean.
He did then realize that this was because
Of the saint's blessing.
The saint sipped the offering ... 13

'The food was great and the water clear.
Get me supari as a mouth freshener.'
Bankat gave him the nut and a coin.
The coin He returned
Saying, I'm not a businessman.
I honor only devotion.
Go Now. Listen to the kirtan' ... 14

Then He sat under a neem tree's shade
Listening to Govindbua's talk.
After Bua's prologue
He recited the entire epilogue

With great aplomb.
Surprise reigned all over.
He who has delivered the script in this manner
Must be a saint of great honor ... 15

Govindbua and the devotees
Requested Him to come
Inside the temple canopy.
'You are the incarnation
Of God Shankar come in here
That's the place for you to be.'
Said the Bua to the Saint ... 16

The Saint brushed him away.
'Be firm on what you say.
If as said God is every where
Why do you force me to come in there?
Practice what you preach.
Don't be a preacher to merely earn a livelihood.
Now go back and sing
The stanzas untold' ... 17

'Residents of Shegaon'
Declared Govindbua with great pride
'Your good deeds of the past
Have brought you a sage.
He has arrived here as Vithoba in Pandharpur.
He'll bring bliss everywhere' ... 18

Beaming with joy
Bankat went home and told his father
Of the entire episode.
He got his father's consent to bring home the saint.
Bankat went searching for him
As the Saint was again missing ... 19

Four days after sun set
The Sun was seen rising again
In the form of Gajanan

By Bankat at the market.
Cows gathered around him
Thinking Him to be Krishna, the cowherd.
Traders lit lamps
As Bankat took him home ... 20

Bhavaniram was overjoyed
At the sight of the Saint
And offered him the swing as a seat.
'You are God Shankar incarnate
Arriving here at sunset.
I wish to offer you food
Which you kindly accept.
Sages declare this as a lucky moment' ... 21

No food was ready except puries fried earlier.
Bhavaniram offered them
With fruits, almonds and dates.
He worshipped the saint who ate all the offering
In the served plate ... 22

He spent the night there.
As the sun came up
Bhavaniram arranged for his shower
With plenty of water, fragrant oils and soap.
He was draped in a yellow silk robe
And offered a seat and flowers ... 23

He was decorated with garlands,
Sandalwood paste
And was offered fruits for breakfast.
The gathering at door was great
As for Krishna at Dwarka Bet.
It was Monday, God Shankar's day ... 24

Each devotee fulfilled his desire
Except Ichcharam, Bankat's cousin
Who kept a fast until evening.
At sunset Ichcharam took bath

And approached Gajanan Maharaj,
An avatar of Shivashankar
And asked him to have food
As he wouldn't eat before the saint did ... 25

A plate full of food
Was brought by Ichcharam.
It had rice and vegetables, Varieties of sweets.
As much fare, as four men could eat ... 26

Said Gajanan to himself,
'Ganpya! You young man.
You eat too much. You have been greedy.
How much would you eat now
On a full belly?
Try and swallow all this up
People are awaiting to see you gulp ... 27

He ate it all.
Not even a grain of salt was left in the plate.
To show the result of over eating
He threw it all up.
This was an act of winning over greed
As saint Ramdas once did in the past ... 28

Devotees cleaned the place
And gave him a bath.
He was offered an honoured seat.
They thronged and sang together
The saint joined them
With a hymn 'Gan gan ganat bote.'
'All existence is part of the eternal' ... 29

The Saint earlier had no name.
Brahma for that matter has none.
They started calling him Gajanan
On the basis of his favorite Chant.
Saints are engrossed
In their own thoughts

And are always absorbed in trance.
Their joy is beyond compare ... 30

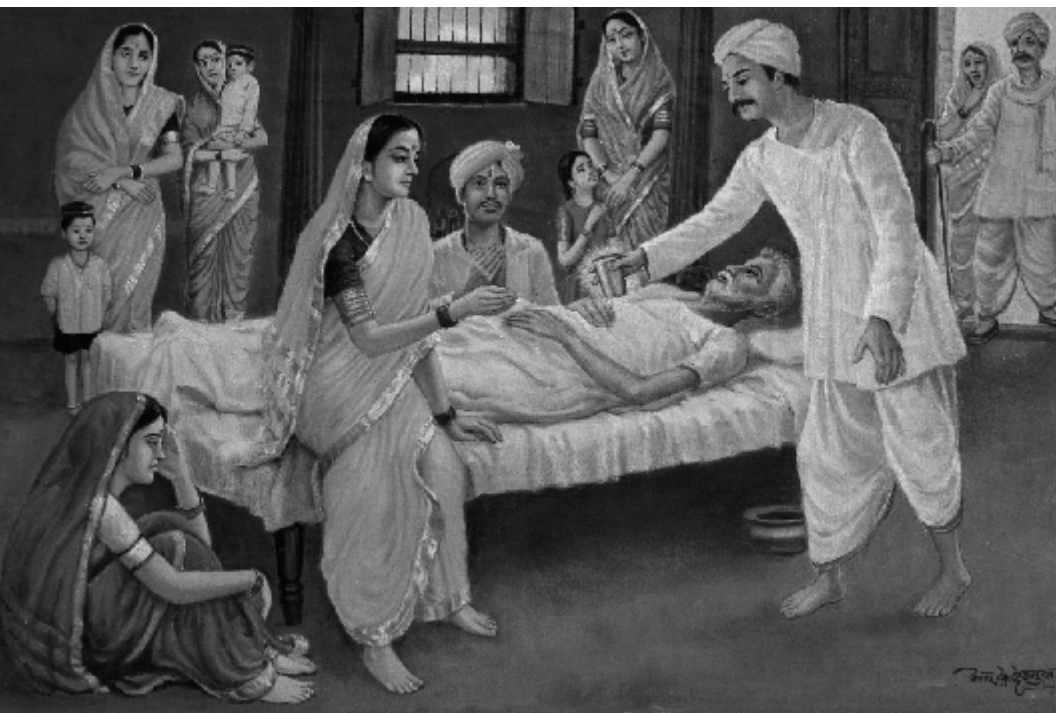
Devotees gathered from all over
At Bankatlal's house,
To have a glimpse of Gajanan
Just as they congregate
At religious places
On auspicious dates.
Gajanan at Shegaon stood on a rock
Of determination like Vithoba at Pandharpur ... 31

What is caste or class for him
Who has attained salvation?
The Rays of the sun
Does not discriminate amongst people.
More devotees came to Shegaon.
Care was taken of
Their food and shelter ... 32

How things were managed
Is beyond description.
Saint Gajanan is potent.
He guides me in this narration.
His routine was irregular.
Sometimes a shower, sometimes a swim
All as per his whim ... 33

Once in a while He smoked
Fulfilling a devotee's wish
But it was never an addiction.
Let us move on
To the next chapter.
Let it be of interest
To all the readers ... 34

Chapter Three



Bankatlal with his father's permission
And the saint's consent
Gave them a glassful.
Janrao regained
His consciousness
With the first nip
And thereafter sipped it for a week
Stopping all medicines

Chapter 03

Shree Ganeshaya namah.

O Creator of the universe
You have been compassionate to all the oppressed.
You are an ocean of kindness,
Salvation to the suffering.
The Wish fulfilling tree.
Be kind to me. Help me in this discourse ... 1

Devotees from all over
Clustered at Bankat's place
Where the Saint stayed
To have his darshan.
They gathered like flies
Who get together around honey.
And need no invitation ... 2

One early dawn
The saint was sitting in a jubilant mood.
It was morn with a pink glow over the horizon.
Soft was the breeze with birds chirping
And it was a moment of delight ... 3

The elderly sat in their beds
Chanting holy prayers.
As Sun stole up driving darkness away.
Women of the house cleaned their yard's.
Calves ran to the cows for their morning's measure.
It was such a great pleasure ... 4

That pleasant morning
An ascetic came from afar.
His clothes were tattered.
He looked like a beggar
With a poor chance to be allowed access
The rich and influential surrounding the seer.
It was a tough affair ... 5

He wore a loin cloth
And a kerchief around his head.
He had a small bag of things
To offer to Shree Gajanan.
He quietly sat in a corner
Waiting for his turn to see the pious saint
And fulfill a promise ... 6

Hearing of the saint
He came from Kashi to offer him a packet of heroin.
This was for a favor
Gained by the Saint's blessing.
Heroin he chose as the gift
As this he liked finest.
And he thought was the best ... 7

If people knew he had heroin
They would never let him in.
His thoughts were understood
By Saint Gajanan
Who asked the devotees to let him in.
He was happy that the saint knew things.
They do know the past, present and future ... 8

He rightly expected
The Saint to know the purpose of his visit
To the town of Shegaon.
'Pull out your gift
Said Saint Gajanan,
'I have been waiting for three months.
Let us now open it here' ... 9

Overwhelmed with joy
The ascetic bowed again and again.
'Why do you now hesitate?
Why did you not think straight
When you promised me a packet
Of an unconventional object?'
The ascetic was sly.
Thus followed his reply ... 10

'I give this to you with a simple appeal.
As my remembrance
Please do accept this little gift for life time.
God and saints never reject a request' ... 11

'You are the incarnation of God Shivshankar.
At Anjani's request
You became her son without bothering about the species
You were requested
To be born in' ... 12

The saint thought it over a while.
He then agreed to the appeal
The ascetic filled heroin
In the Saint's pipe
And offered it to him for a smoke.
This is how he started smoking
But never became addicted to it ... 13

Like the lotus leaf in a pond
He stayed dry amidst water.
The visitor stayed a while
And left for Rameshwar on his journey ... 14

Some time the Saint recited Vedic hymns.
Sometimes he kept silent.
He sang classical musical notes
Or chanted his favorite classical quotes.
'Gan gan ganat bote'
Was his favorite chant ... 15

He wandered aimlessly
Through woods as per his whim.
Sometimes he slept longer.
Appeared clumsy for no reason.
He entered households
Without the owner's permission ... 16

Janrao Deshmukh, a prosperous man
From the town of Shegaon
Was breathing his last.
The doctors declared it as a hopeless case
And summoned the relatives
To be at his death bed ... 17

They prayed God
And made vows and pledges
If Janrao is back on his toes.
It did not seem to work.
They approached Bankat with a request
To give them water sanctified
By the touch of the saint's feet ... 18

Bankatlal with his father's permission
And the saint's consent gave them a glassful.
Janrao regained his consciousness
With the first sip and thereafter sipped it for a week
Stopping all medicines ... 19

He recovered his health.
Free from all suffering,
Walked to Bhavaniram's house
For the sacred sight of the Saint supreme.
That holy water had the effect of heavenly nectar.
Saints are Gods incarnate ... 20

Does this mean that no one would die
In the town of Shegaon
As long as the Saint remained?
Saints don't prevent deaths.

They don't work against nature.
They can avoid a disaster,
Unnatural or accidental ... 21

Saint Dnyaneshwar once
Prevented the death of Shree Satchitanand
Due to an accident at Naivase.
But the person had to depart
From another place named Alandi
At the appointed time ... 22

To speak of death, It has three forms.
Natural, self inflicted and accidental.
None can avoid the natural.
The others can be averted
By purity and proper medication ... 23

The doctor however has to be clever.
Death accidental and unnatural
Is the wrath of God.
Be pious and religious.
Pray to saints and deities
To evade untimely calamity ... 24

The intensity of faith in Almighty
Is the essence of preventing death
In the third category.
The saint you adore should not be fake.
Saffron clothes do not a sage make ... 25

He should be pious and free from the six sins*.
One should surrender to none else than him ... 26

Deshmukh celebrated his revival
By feeding hundreds at the residence
Of Bankatlal seth,
Where the saint stayed.
News of Deshmukh's survival reached every where

* Lust, anger, avarice, temptation, ego, jealousy are the six sins
known as 'Shadripu' (Six enemies)

People gathered at the Saint's
From far and near ... 27

To avoid such incidents
The saint became strict and indifferent.
Yet the true devotees knew his temperament
And were not scared,
Like the child devotee Pralhad
Who was not afraid of Narasimha's
Fierce appearance at all ... 28

A tigress may appear ferocious to people
But not to her cubs playing in her lap.
Real devotees thus were not alarmed
By the stern countenance
Of saint Gajanan ... 29

Now the story of Vithoba Ghatol
Who named himself as kalyan
Working for Gajanan Maharaj.
Kalyan was the name of the devotee
Who helped Samarth Ramdas.
Vithoba boasted that the saint
Always depended on him for his daily routine ... 30

A lump of earth may absorb
Fragrance of musk when they are together.
Acacia bush may acquire
Sandal wood perfume when they grow near.
That lump is not musk,
And acacia no sandal wood
Whatever their proximity be ... 31

Alongside sugarcane breeds cactus.
Along jasmine grow stinking shrubs.
Saints and the fallen live together.
Diamond and pebbles are found together.
A pebble is worthless
Compared to a diamond.

It remains a piece of rock,
To be trodden upon ... 32

Vithoba took advantage
Of his closeness to the Saint.
And boasted himself
To be the sacred bull of Shiva.
Gajanan Maharaj by divine vision
Knew of Vithoba's boast
And decided to teach him a lesson
With the following incident ... 33

A group of visitors came to Shegaon
To look respectfully at the Saint.
He was asleep and no one
Would dare him awake.
They told Vithoba that they were in a rush
And would like a darshan
Of Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 34

Vithoba felt important
And woke up Shree Gajanan
The darshan went well
But it invoked the rage of the sage.
He took baton and hit Vithoba on the head ... 35

'You rascal, You have started a business here.
If I tolerate you I will be at fault
In the kingdom of God.
You deserve punishment.'
Gajanan Maharaj said ... 36

Don't reckon liquor
As sugarcane juice.
Never ever consume
A drop of poison.
Don't let a thief come near you,
And let him not try
To befriend you ever ... 37

Saint Gajanan knocked him down,
Making him run and not return.
This is the way real saints behave
Not like other hypocrites
Falling prey to quacks
Misguiding people at large.
This is an antisocial act
And should never be encouraged ... 38

Saints never encourage such elements
And weed them out of society.
A chaste lady would never like
To stay in a call girl's vicinity.
Gold ornaments would never compare
To trinkets made of tin.
Saints may accept sinners
But would never give them importance ... 39

Saints do realize that each one suffers
From the sins committed
In the previous life.
Mother earth allows cactus and milk bush
To grow along with jasmine
Each one of a different kind ... 40

Jasmine bush is protected
Cactus is burnt as fire wood
Milk bush is hung at the door
To attract insects.
Saints likewise evaluate people.
Know each individual
Offer him protection
In spite of the variations ... 41

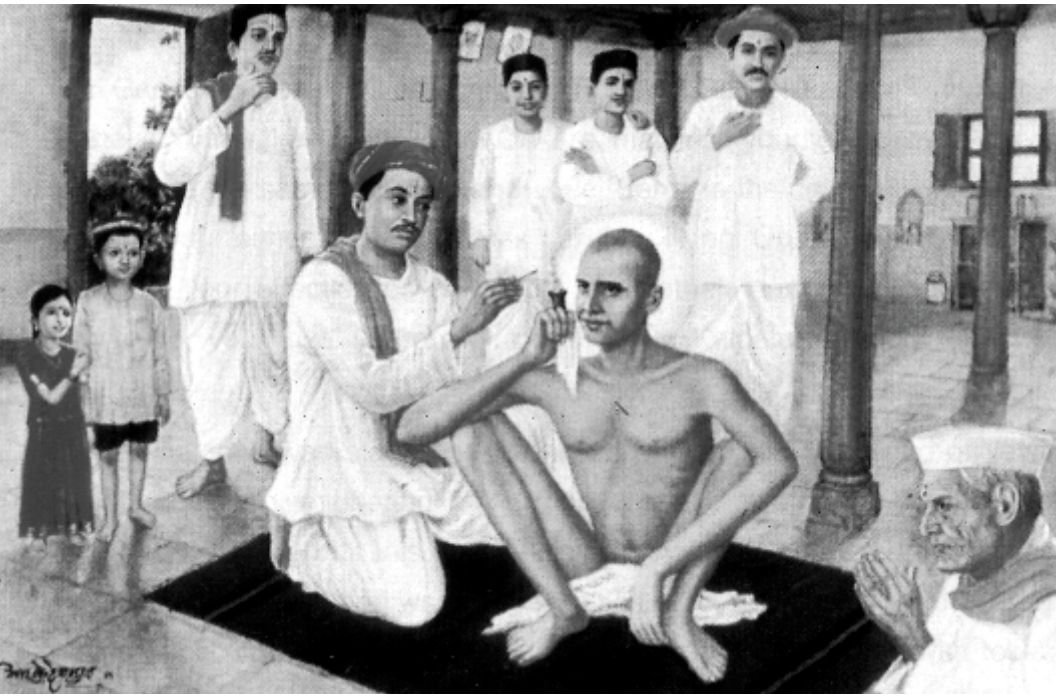
Vithoba was fortunate
He could get to touch saint's feet.
But he failed to understand
The greatness of the saint.

If he had realized it,
It would have been
A divine providence.
And obtained him salvation ... 42

Sitting under the wish fulfilling tree
He asked for a pebble instead of jewel,
To Kamdhenu, the celestial cow
He asked just a coconut shell.
No one should do thus
In the company of saints.
Let your mind be vigilant,
Alert day and night ... 43

Let these hymns
Praising Shree Gajanan
Save the devotees
In this mundane world ... 44

Chapter Four



The saint flashed a smile
And picked up his pipe.
He asked Bankatlal
To get a match stick
And hold it over the tobacco.
Bankatlal did it
And was surprised to see
The pipe burning bright

Chapter 04

Shree Ganeshaya namah.

Almighty, Omniscient, Protector of all,
Adorned by many names
Nilkanth, Gangadhar, Mahakal
Bless me Trimbakeshwar, Omkar.
You and God Vishnu are one.
Water by any other name
Tastes nectarine ... 1

You both are one and the only entity.
Devotees may call you
By various names
You bless every one
Who perceives you as one
A mother never differentiates
Amongst her children ... 2

I am just an innocent child
Bless me with a kind smile
To fulfill my dreams
Under the wish fulfilling tree * ... 3

It was Akshaya Tritiya
A festival day
Third of Vaishakh
Falling in the month of May.

The day is very precious
For Vidharbha people
Where they offer a pitcher of water
To their ancestors ... 4

The saint was having fun
With neighborhood children
At the residence of Bankatlal
When he asked one of the boys
To fill tobacco in his pipe
And get some light for it to ignite.
The pipe was filled
But there was no fire in sight ... 5

Not yet at Bankatlal's
Who suggested them Janakiram.
Janakiram was a goldsmith there.
All goldsmiths ignite fire in the morning.
It's essential for their routine.
The children went to the goldsmith
And asked him for an ignited piece ... 6

Janakiram was furious
He refused to give fire on a day so precious
As Akshaya Tritiya auspicious.
The children said, 'Don't be superstitious
We require it to light
The pipe of a Saint pious' ... 7

Janakiram turned down the request.
'I don't recognize him as a saint.
He has no caste or creed
He eats from anyones's hands,
Smokes tobacco and heroin.
He remains bare drinks dirty water
And behaves crazily ... 8

Bankatlal is crazy too, to go after him.
If he is a saint, He can start a fire for himself

With his supernatural powers
As did Jallandar
Who used to ignite fire
For his smoking pipe ... 9

Don't stand here.
Better go away.
You won't get any flame
For that lunatic saint
I don't care at all.'
The children returned
And told the Saint
Of the entire conversation ... 10

The Saint flashed a smile
And picked up his pipe.
He asked Bankatlal
To get a match stick
And hold it over the tobacco.
Bankatlal did it
And was surprised to see
The pipe burning bright ... 11

This is what happened
With the Saint's grace.
At Janakiram's place
It was something else.
He hosted a feast
On this festival day.
For guests and relatives
All the way ... 12

Tamarind curry is essential
For Akshayatritiya
As neem leaves chutney
For Gudi Padwa
Guests saw worms in the curry.
They felt nauseous
And left the place in a hurry ... 13

Jankiram was disturbed.
How could this be?
The tamarind was fresh
And the seeds worm free.
It occurred to him
That it was his blunder
In refusing fire
For the pipe of the seer ... 14

'It is because of his ire
The feast went haywire.
Saint Gajanan is as pure
As waters of Ganges.
I talked lowly of him
O! What a disgrace.
He is a king amongst all rulers
I called him a beggar ... 15

He is a seer
Knowing past, present and future.'
Janakiram hurried to Bankat's place
Realizing his mistake
And fell prostrate
In front of the saint.
He begged pardon
Of Saint Shree Gajanan ... 16

'I beg to be pardoned,'
Jankiram said, 'I failed to understand
That you are the Deity
In our Shegaon city.
My mind is now clear
And I earn any punishment
You think I deserve' ... 17

'Bring in the curry.
Where are the worms?'
They all looked in,
The preparation was clear.

It was a surprise.
People around saw the miracle
And bowed down to the seer ... 18

On a hot summer day
In the month of Jeshtha.
Chandu Mukin, a devotee
Was amongst people
Who surrounded the saint.
They offered him flowers
Sandal wood paste,
Mangoes and pears ... 19

He said he wanted them not
Except the two cannolis
Kept in the earthen pot
At the house of Mukin.
Chandu Mukin was shocked
As, in his recollection
There was nothing left
From last month's preparation ... 20

He told the saint
There was nothing left
From the Akshaya Tritiya lot.
If you so like, I will ask my wife
To fry a few fresh ones.
The Saint said, No
I want only those in the pot ... 21

'Go search for them and bring the pieces to me.'
The devotees too
Said the same thing.
Chandu went home and told his wife.
'There is nothing left
Let me make them fresh.' said she ... 22

'Search for them in the earthen pots
Stacked in the corner.'

Then she remembered of two pieces
Lying unnoticed in an earthen jug.
'They are stale, may be with mildew.
I don't think they'll do'... 23

Chandu and his wife were amazed to notice
That they were fresh.
Chandu took them to the saint.
To the surprise of all
He ate them as did Shree Rama
Shabari's offerings ... 24

In the village of Chincholi near Shegaon
Lived a Brahmin named Madhao.
He was sixty.
Looked weak for his age.
He had misused his youth
In mundane pleasures ... 25

No force on earth
Can change the destiny of man.
Madhao lost his wife and children
And was now alone in the clan.
He lost interest in living
Sold all his property
And regretted that in his youth
He never remembered Divinity ... 26

He begged pardon of God
Again and again and asked for His blessings
To save him from this pain.
Full of repentance
He came to saint Gajanan,
Squatted at his door
Chanting God's name ... 27

The Saint watched him for a day
And said, 'Whatever you are doing
Is not appropriate.

It is like getting a doctor
After the patient's death.
Or tying nuptial knot
At an older age.
Things should be done at the proper time' ... 28

Don't start digging a well
When the house is on fire.
For fruitful results do things in time.
You toiled all the while
For folks that left you alone.
You wasted time on goals material
Forgetting those that are perpetual ... 29

You have to accept results.
There is no escape.
Now be reasonable
Come back to your senses.
Devotees present advised him too
But he ignored them all
And kept chanting the name of God
At the entrance of the hall ... 30

As night approached and it was pitch dark
Shree Gajanan tried a trick.
He changed himself into the God of death
And rushed to Madhao
To stop him breathe.
Madhao was scared.
His heart thumped weird ... 31

He started running away
The Saint revealed himself
And loudly said,
'Is this how much strong you are?
I have shown you just a glimpse
Of the house of death.
You are its fare.
You can't run away from there' ... 32

'Spare me from that hell
And from this earthly life too!
Said Madhao,
'This is my last request to you.
You have shown me the sight of hell.
Don't send me there.
Please give me heavenly bliss ... 33

I am fully aware of my sins
But I know if you wish
You can rid me of them all.
I am fortunate to be at your feet
Because of some good deeds of past.
How could some one
Who meets a saint
Ever go to hell?' ... 34

'Keep singing the name of God
Your death is not very far.
Yet if you still want to live
I will extend your life span.'
To this Madhao said, 'No, I have enough.'
'So be it!' said the saint
You will not be born again.' ... 35

Thus went the secret talk, Hard to describe.
Madhao stopped breathing.
People around started guessing
That it was because of his fasting.
Madhao died at the feet of the Saint
And finally escaped
The cycle of birth and death ... 36

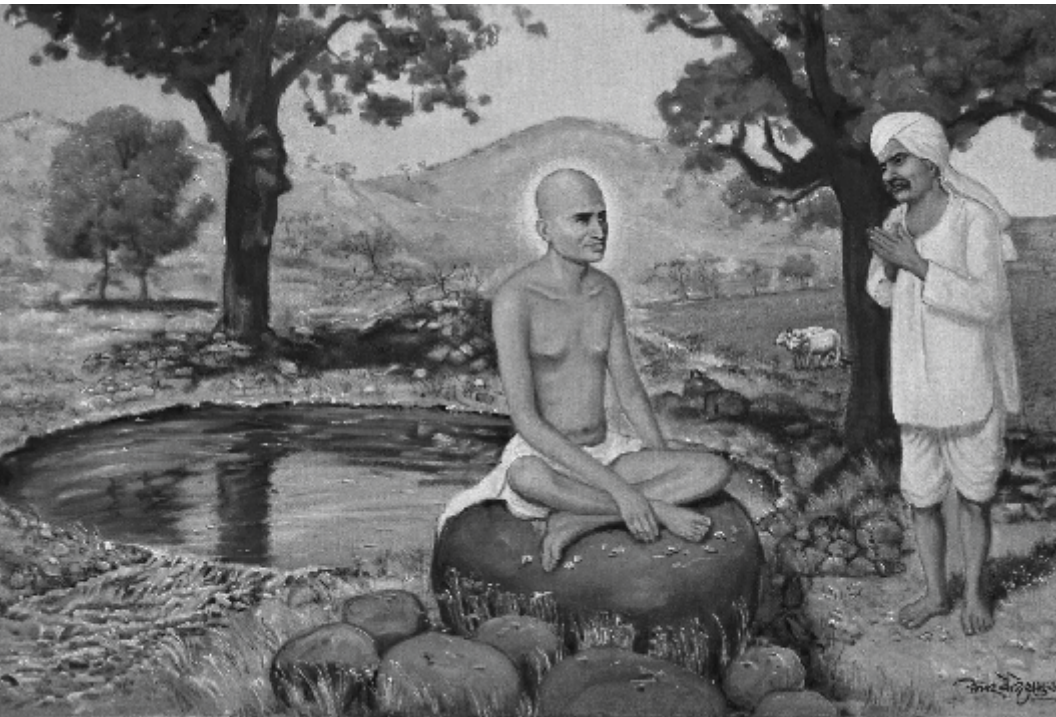
Once the Maharaj expressed a desire
To listen to Vedic scriptures
Sung by learned Brahmin priests.
He asked devotees to get them there.
They said such scholars are not available
Anywhere near ... 37

'Make arrangements for the recital
And await their arrival.'
Happy were the devotees.
They collected one hundred Rupees.
In preparation for the Vedic celebration.
A team of learned Brahmins
Arrived the next noon ... 38

They delivered the Vedas
For the Saint and were offered dakshina
Before they went.
God fulfills saint's desire.
With such a recital Bankatlal's family
Celebrates this day every year ... 39

Let this prayer show
The path of devotion
To the readers.
Thus ends Chapter four ... 40

Chapter Five



He peeped into the well
It was completely dry.
He sat under a tree on a rock nearby.
With closed eyes he mediated a while
Solemnly imploring Almighty
To fill in the well for the community.
He invoked God in all His names.
'Please fill in water in this dry space.'

Chapter 05

Shree Ganeshaya namah.

O eternal, unconquerable entity.
Full of happiness and mercy.
I bow down to you and seek your protection.
I am just a browbeaten sinner
Devoid of authority to sing laurels to you.
So help me Almighty ... 1

But I know one thing
People in authority go to any level
To rescue the helpless and poor.
God Shivshankar Mahesh
Smeared his body with ash.
The smallness of the small
Does not bother the big at all ... 2

I am at your mercy and bow down to you.
Mother always fulfills the wants of a child.
I am solely depending on you
To complete this treatise ... 3

Devotees thronged to Shegaon
To revere the Saint.
His reputation had spread far and wide.
He wanted to keep away from it all
And walked away to the woods
Without leaving any clue
About his whereabouts ... 4

One day he walked away
To an ancient temple of Shiva,
An age old structure
In the forest near Pimpalgaon
By the side of a stream
And sat steady in the hall
In padmasana pose
Away from the worldly din ... 5

A group of cowherds
Brought their cattle
For their routine gulp of water.
They entered the temple
When the cows were slurping
And next to God Shiva
They saw the saint sitting ... 6

All these years
They saw none sitting there.
His eyes were closed.
He was in the padmasana pose.
Some of them sat in front of him.
His eyes were still closed
He did not speak to them ... 7

They couldn't understand
The reason of it all.
They brought him some bread
Thinking that he was starving.
They tried to wake him up
From his trance and were surprised
That there was no response ... 8

They touched his body
It was warm. He was alive.
No cause for alarm.
Some thought him to be a phantom.
How can that be
In a holy temple? ... 9

May be he is God Himself
They further thought
And considered themselves
A fortunate lot.
They worshipped him
With water and flowers.
Washed his feet,
Offered onion and bread ... 10

They sat around him and sang prayers.
Then they remembered
That it was time to go back.
The elders will worry over the delay
And come searching for the children.
The calves will start lowing
For the mother cows' return ... 11

They went home and told their parents
About the strange appearance
Of a pious saint
At the old temple of Shiva
Which changed the status for a while.
People of the village
Went there early next day ... 12

The saint was still there
In his trance in the same position as he was.
Food offered earlier was still lying there.
Some thought he was a yogi
Others called him an incarnation of God ... 13

On one point they agreed
That the saint was in a trance.
They remembered Saint Jallandar
Who stayed in a trance for twelve years.
They brought the saint to Pimpalgaon
With great pomp and flare.
On a special palanquin
They took him there ... 14

They scattered vermillion powder
And various flowers on him
On the way to Pimpalgaon.
A special seat was arranged for him
In the temple of Hanuman.
Since he did not come out of trance
The villagers decided to fast
Until he returned to awareness ... 15

The Saint immediately opened his eyes
And came out of his stupor.
Jubilant villagers bowed down to him,
And got him food as an offering.
News of the saint coming to Pimpalgaon
Spread in the neighborhood
And reached Shegaon ... 16

In Tuesday's weekly market crowd
They talked of the Saint and his whereabouts.
Bankatlal and his wife rushed to Pimpalgaon.
They requested the Saint
With folded hands
To come back to Shegaon ... 17

'How can a child be separated from his mother?
Devotees are on fast there
To ensure that you come back earlier.
I will end my life now
If you don't come back with me from here.'
On hearing this, saint boarded the cart
Which Bankat had brought ... 18

People remembered the story of Akrur
Taking back Lord Krishna from the town of Gokul.
Bankatlal said,
'The Saint is not going far away.
He will be in Shegaon,
Just a few miles away ... 19

The Saint would go to them if he decided to do so.'
Bankatlal being a money lender
People owed him money
And did not dare to say no
To their Shegaon journey.
The Saint said, 'Bankat. 'This is no way
For a lender to take things away' ... 20

'When I look to your affairs
I feel scared to be there.
Lakshmi, Goddess of wealth, mother of all people,
Consort of Vishnu from the trinity
Is locked in your captivity.
I got frightened and ran away
Seeing you treat her this way.' ... 21

Bankatlal replied with a laugh
'Mother Lakshmi cannot be impaired by locks.
She stays with me because you are here.
A child feels safe under mother's care.
Your sacred feet are the real wealth to me.
I do not care for anything else.
That's why I came to Pimpalgaon
To bring you back to this dwell.' ... 22

'Nothing here belongs to me, it's all yours
How can a watchman stop the owner
From entering his own quarters?
You may do whatever you like
Go where ever you want to go
Bless the whole world but don't forget us
Simple folks of town Shegaon' ... 23

'Cows go out in the morning
But return to their shed in the evening.
That's what we request you to do.
That's our earnest entreaty.'
Thus Bankatlal brought the Saint back
To the lovely town of Shegaon

Where he stayed for a few days
And then went away ... 24

It so happened that one fine morning
The Saint left for Adgaon without an inkling
Like transporting of God Hanuman
With the speed of a windy storm.
It was Vaishakh in summer.
Water had dried up everywhere.
At hot noon he reached village Akoli,
Lips dry with thirst and perspiring profusely ... 25

He looked around for water.
A farmer named Bhaskar
Was working in his field further.
A farmer toils hard to produce food for all
Facing all vagaries of weather.
He is an important member
Of the society in general ... 26

Water was so scarce in Akoli.
One may get Ghee more easily.
Bhaskar had brought for himself
A pitcher full of water and some bread.
These were kept under a shrub.
The saint asked of him just a few sips to gulp.
'Please give me water. I am thirsty.' ... 27

'Please don't say no. It is considered a pious deed
To give water to the thirsty indeed.
In scorching summer
Wealthy people open water booths
For travelers on highways to quench their thirst.
A gulp or two is what I need.' ... 28

Bhaskar replied,
'How can I reckon it a good turn
To offer water to a useless person
Unmindful of his naked condition?

Religious books relate a good action
To offerings made to orphans,
Disabled and to persons
To help redeem a social ill ... 29

It is a sin to quench your thirst
As you are one of the undeserving people around.
No one will ever nourish a snake
On humanitarian grounds.
Or offer protection to a thief in his own house.
You are getting fat begging from door to door.
A burden to society, nothing more ... 30

I have brought this water on my head
For me and not you, O dumb-head.
I won't give you a drop so walk away you flop.
Because of lazy people like you
Thriving in our society
We are defamed to a great extent
In the world community ... 31

The saint smiled and walked his way
And saw a well not far away.
Seeing him thus walking by Bhaskar yelled out aloud
'That well is not worth a try.
It is completely dry.
There is no other around us
Within a two mile radius. ... 32

The saint said, 'If that be right
I'll try to get water in it.
I am aware that you deserving people
Face great torture without water.
Let me try something in society's interest.
God will help me
If my intentions are honest.' ... 33

He peeped into the well. It was completely dry.
He sat under a tree on a rock nearby.

With closed eyes he meditated a while
Solemnly imploring Almighty
To fill in the well for the community.
He invoked God in all His names.
'Please fill in water in this dry space.' ... 34

'People look worried
There is not a drop left in any of the wells.
All human efforts have failed.
Please come to their rescue
Impossible things you can do.
You saved cats from a burning furnace
And emerged from a pillar at Pralhad's request ... 35

'You devoured twelve villages
Around Gokul as Vaishawanar.
You lifted a mountain as Murari
On your little finger.
You posed as an untouchable for Sant Damajipant
And tended the cattle
Of Sant Chokhamela.' ... 36

You protected the birds of sant Savata Mali
And created water for Namadeo
In a hot Marwad alley.
God Almighty! If you so desire
You can fill this well with water.'
His invocation went on fervently
And a spring of water shot up in the well ... 37

God's creativity has no limits
He can craft what He thinks fit.
The saint quenched his thirst
With water from the well.
Bhaskar could not believe
What he had seen.
How can a well dry for twelve years
Be now full surging with water? ... 38

It means that the person whom he sleighted
Was not an ordinary man but a saint.
Realizing the fault Bhaskar ran to him
And on his feet fell prostrate.
'Pardon me.' He said, 'I am an ignorant child.
I didn't know you well
And insulted you wildly.' ... 39

When milkmaids insulted Krishna
He did not take them seriously.
Please pardon me thus
And don't deal with me sternly.
External appearances are deceptive.
I was carried away by that.
My ignorance is wiped away
With the miracle you performed.' ... 40

'I realize your powers
And will never leave your feet.
You as a mother should not desert me.
I recognize that mundane things are a deceit.'
'Don't lament.' Said the seer,
'I created water here to avoid you bringing it
From places not near ... 41

Don't give up your pursuits.
This water is for you.
Cultivate rich fields
As you used to do.'
'Don't tempt me, O saint!
Said Bhaskar in humiliation
'I was like the dry well.
You have filled it with comprehension.' ... 42

'This is a fine spring of faith.
With this water I will grow
A fruit garden of deep devotion.
O saint! Bless me so.

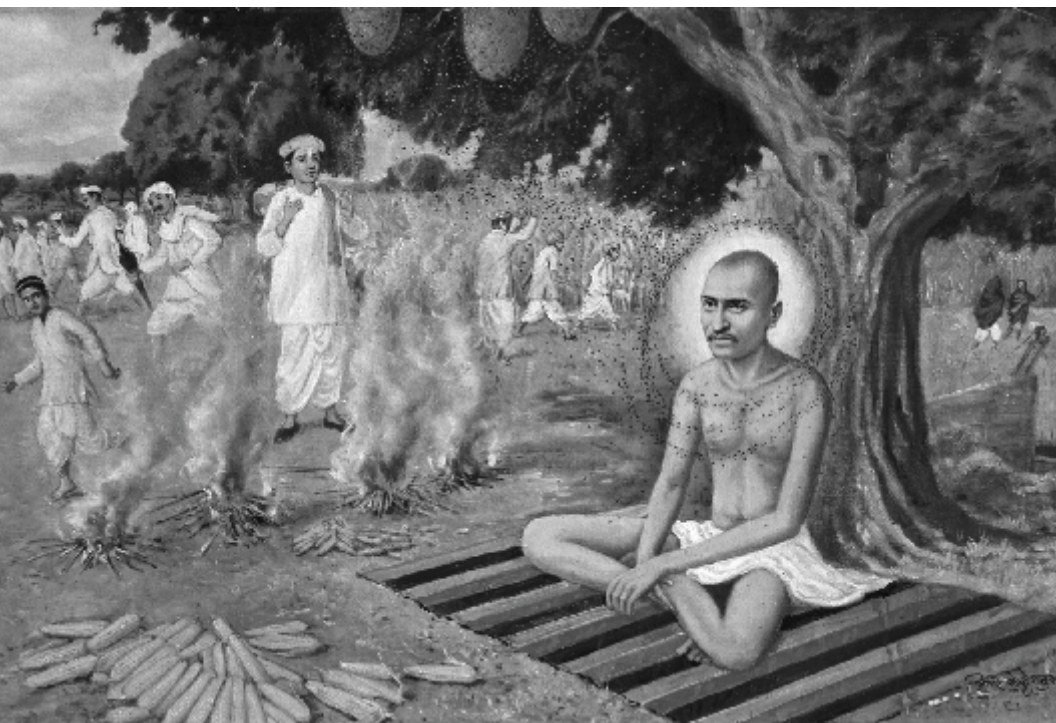
I will plant trees of good moral education,
Flowers and plants of determin'd action.
I will do away with the transitory attachment
Enticing me in worldly temptation.' ... 43

Look at the transformation
That came about in Bhaskar's action
With the brief association
Of a saintly incarnation.
Sant Tukaram in his dissertation
Writes of the effects of a saint's darshan
It's worthwhile reading that script
For your own benefit ... 44

News of a dry well filling with water
Spread to the villages like wild fire.
People rushed to the Saint to see him first
And went to the well to quench their thirst
Like flies dashing to the honey jar
Or ants to a lump of sugar.
The water was cool tasty and clear
Sweeter than the heavenly nectar ... 45

They all cheered the saint
Again and again.
Instead of going to Adgaon
He returned to Shegaon
With Bhaskar.
May this treatise
Be your real guide
And make you prosper ... 46

Chapter Six



Everyone loves his own life.
It was true with these people.
Saint Gajanan sat nonchalant
In this entire scramble.
Deeply engrossed in his reflections
He thought of the bees, beehives,
Of himself, the guests and the corn
Saying, 'I am the bee and the stinging thorn

Chapter 06

Shree Ganeshay namah

O emblem of all good fortune
It is an established dictum
That a saint's kind blessings
Drive away inauspicious happening.
I have come to your door
With great belief and hopes.
If you fail me, it would bring disrepute
To you and all seers ... 1

God Madhava, don't get upset with me.
Uphold the prestige of this innocent child.
Kindly remember that they hold the mother
Answerable for any shortcomings
Of her young toddler ... 2

Once Bankatlal organized festivities
At his farm for his friends to enjoy
Roasted corn on the cob.
Saint Gajanan was an honoured invitee,
The main attraction at the party.
They sat near the well, age old
Holding ample water in its fold ... 3

Tall tamarind trees stood around
Looking down on the guests squatting on the ground.
Fire was ignited
At a dozen places to roast the corn pieces.
Smoke rose to the skies Disturbing the beehives ... 4

Wild bees from the trees with their fiery sting
Swung down hovering
On the guests eagerly waiting
Their turn for the cob.
Instead they had to run amuck
Covering their faces with blanket veils ... 5

Everyone loves his own life.
It was true of these people.
Saint Gajanan sat nonchalant in this entire scramble.
Deeply engrossed in his reflection
He thought of the bees, beehives,
Of himself, the guests and the corn
Saying, 'I am the bee and the stinging thorn ... 6

I am the beehive too and a part of this show,
I am the corn and the eater also.
All this is part of the cosmic entity
Wherever in the universe you go' ... 7

The bees converged on him
And covered him like a blanket.
The casing was so perfect
That not an inch of him was left.
They stung him every where
With their deadly barbs.
The guests watched this helplessly
Unable to lend a helping hand ... 8

Bankatlal was sorry that he had brought
Saint Gajanan to the farm.
The saint could know with his divine insight
That Bankatlal was rushing
To save him from this plight.
He was happy that there was one disciple
Trying to save him from this debacle ... 9

He looked at the bees and said,
'Now is the time for you to go and take rest.

The bees flew back to their hives.
It was just a minute's flight.
The saint smiled and said,
'Bankat, you see, on me
'You gave a good feast to the bees ... 10

Remember, in times of calamity
No one helps except the Almighty.
When the poisonous flies dived down to attack
The party lovers fled away in a pack.
These selfish people love good food and sweets
And ran away
When the bees came to sting ... 11

Said Bankat with an apology,
'I am responsible for this tragedy.
To pull out the burning barbs forthwith
Shall I summon an expert goldsmith?'
The saint said, 'This is nothing bizarre.
Stinging is a part of bees nature.
They behaved accordingly
The sting does not affect me ... 12

They are a part of God's creation
I too am, is His incarnation.
Just tell me how water can ever harm water.'
Bankat was happy at this awakening.
He got a goldsmith to pull out the stings.
The saint laughed and said,
'You would not be able to see them ... 13

In such a case it is clear
That they cannot be pulled out by pincers.'
He then took a deep breath
And held it up for a while.
The sting popped out of his body,
Leaving the observers breathless.
They were glad to realize the greatness
Of Gajanan the majestic saint ... 14

The crowd reassembled.
The fiery bees were quiet.
Maize corns were roasted without any quagmire.
Guests enjoyed the feast to a great extent
And went home in the evening
With great content ... 15

Shree Narasingji a Maratha saint
Of great distinction had become one with God
Because of his devotion.
He was the disciple
Of Kotashya Ali and stayed in dense woods
Not accessible easily ... 16

Biography of Shree Narsingaji
Is narrated in Bhaktiilamrut pages
Where details of his great deeds
Are narrated in detail.
The forest lay near Akot
Just thirty six miles to the North-east
Of Bankatlal's domicile ... 17

The woods were deep and dense
With tall trees, wild grass and creepers,
Inhabited by snakes and similar creatures.
In such a dreadful forest
Shree Narasingji stayed alone
In complete seclusion.
Gajanan went to see him on his own ... 18

Water merges with water
Like things mix with each other
Unlike things don't do it ever.
Looking at Shree Gajanan
Narasingji was happy beyond depiction.
One was Hari, the other was Har
One was Rama, the other Muralidhar.
One was sage Vashishtha, other Parashar ... 19

One, the banks of Ganges, other Godavari
One Kohinoor, other kousthubhamani
One Vainateya, other son of Anjani.
When they met they were very happy.
They sat next to each other
And exchanged experiences
Said the saint to Narasinga
'In picking family life you did well.' ... 20

Renouncing that I followed the path of yoga
To know the ultimate reality, Brahma.
The path of yoga has many strange things
Incomprehensible to human beings.
To hide them, on many occasions
I behave like a crazy person.
There are three paths to ultimate reality
Action, devotion and yogic ability ... 21

Apparently they look as three different paths
But in reality they have the same goal.
Yoga is suppression of activities
Of body, mind and will
So that the self may realize its distinction
From them and attain liberation.
If a yogi feels proud of his path
He will remain away from the ultimate fact ... 22

When you take up the yogic path
Remain detached like the drop of water on a lotus leaf
To understand the principle behind it.
If you accept family life
Be like a pebble in the river
Remaining wet all the while
Yet not soaking up a drop of water ... 23

Remain free from expectations
With complete concentration
On the master of this creation.
Then nothing is impossible

You, I and God are one
The people around are not different.
Such should be your behavior
If you pick this as your option ... 24

With great modesty said Shree Narasingji,
'I am grateful to you for meeting me.
Prapanch, this business of life
Is very much unreal like the shadow at noontime.
I will follow your kind counsel.
Please come to me again and again ... 25

Everything is predestined in this world
Yet we have to perform our duty as well
As is prescribed by the Almighty.
I request you come here again.
As the younger brother it would be my gain
I will await you like Bharat at Nandigram
Waiting for his brother Shree Ram ... 26

With your yogic power
It is easy for you to be here
Without touching your feet anywhere.
You can travel anywhere you like
The three worlds to you are all alike'.
With great affection they discussed
Various points of importance over and over ... 27

This is the way real saints behave.
While hypocrites fight and rave.
Don't select them as a guru ever.
They breed greed. Be aware.
They don't have any powers
To guide a shattered boat to the pier.
They do gather a lot of publicity
Shun them with prudence and discrimination ... 28

Setting up a monastery or composing poetry
Do not raise a man to sainthood

It needs knowledge and a selfless mood.
Can anyone accept gold plated brass
As a real piece of gold?
Can anyone take a woman of disrepute
To be the queen of his household? ... 29

Good consciousness and good outlook
Stay with one who rejects a crook.
The two saints who met were real and rare.
News went round to Akot about their meeting there
Like the confluence of Godavari
And Bhagirathi river ... 30

With flowers and coconuts
They rushed to the forest.
By the time they were there
Saint Gajanan had already left
With the kind permission of Saint Narasingaji
Disappointing the devotees
Of Akot and thereabouts ... 31

In one of his wanderings with his followers
Shree Gajanan reached a town
Called Shivar, on the banks of Chadrabhaga
Near Daryapur, Vidharbha
Not of Pandharpur
Abode of God Vithoba ... 32

Herein lived a learned Brahmin
With Vrajabhushan as his name.
He had mastered four languages
And was famous all over the place.
A devotee of Sun God
Every morning as a habit
He bathed in Chandrabhaga
And offered prayers to God of light ... 33

He was respected by learned men.
As if a gift of his daily prayers

The saint went to the river near Shivar.
When Vrajabhushan came for his routine bath
He saw the saint on the bank.
Dawn was invading the blue
Birds were chirping with joy
Welcoming the lord of the sky ... 34

Darkness disappeared like fools
From a congregation of learned men.
As the Sun peeped up the horizon
The saint sat engrossed in his blissful domain
Surrounded by disciples as rays of light.
Vrajabhushan saw saint Gajanan,
A shining form with long arms
Eyes focused on nose in concentration ... 35

Vrajabhushan's joy knew no bounds
He rushed to the revered saint
Washed his feet and offered worship
Bowed down to him with great respect
Reciting the twelve names of Sun,
Performing aarati and singing prayers in verse
Which went thus: ... 36

'I got the reward of my penance
By a glimpse of your feet divine.
I have been offering prayers to Sun God
I see Him here now. What a delight.
O Gajanan! You are the Brahma,
Full of knowledge and support this universe.
You take births again and again ... 37

All my concerns have vanished
As I see you.
Bestow all your kindness to me.
This is all I ask of you.'
Saint Gajanan hugged him
As a mother to the child and placing hand on his head
Spoke to him some words of choice ... 38

'You will be respected and loved by people.
Don't relinquish the path of duty.
Don't think of rituals as meaningless.
Yet don't get involved in them completely.
Do your duty unmindful of the fruits.
This is the way to meet God
And keep your outlook unblemished ... 39

Hold these words in your mind.
Now go home.
I will always meet you in your meditations.'
Thus saying the saint gave him
Some coconut pieces and travelled back
With followers to Shegaon ... 40

Shegaon was Shivgaon formerly
But in due course changed its name
Which eventually stayed.
Seventeen Patils lived in this place.
The Saint returned to Shegaon but not for long.
He visited many places
As he moved along ... 41

Summer passed by. It was Shravan,
Month of rain and festivals.
Annual celebrations were on at Hanuman temple.
Families of Patils, all devotees
Gathered under the temple's canopy.
Patil being a powerful authority
People cooperated in all his activity ... 42

This month-long function
Had all religious aspects,
Abhishek, prayers and feasts
For devotees to their hearts content.
Khandu Patil a noble person
Was the leader of the function.
Authority is like a tiger skin
And becomes terror to people and kin ... 43

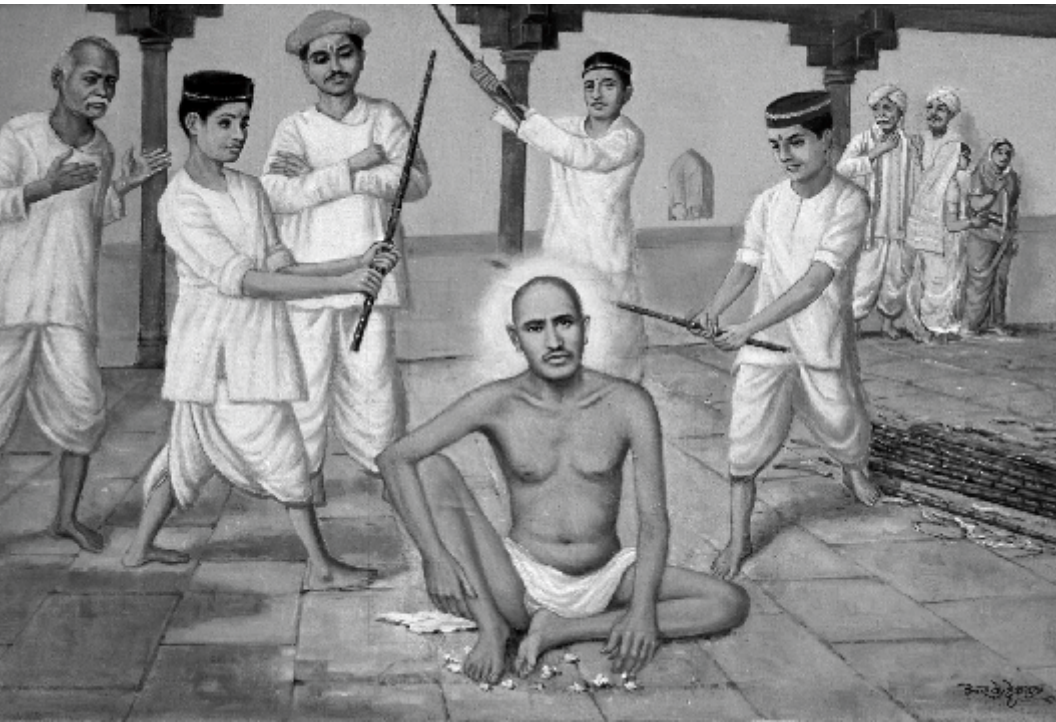
Yet people united achieve a lot
Which a king alone cannot.
The Saint came to the temple
To attend festivals in Shravan.
He said to Bankatlal, 'Now hear
From now I will be staying here.
Hope you don't mind this choice
Seers don't live in a friend's house ... 44

I have relinquished all worldly ties
And will live in a temple all my life.
That doesn't mean I ignore you at all.
I am here at your beck and call.
Shankaracharya moved from place to place
Machchindra and Jalandar avoided houses.
Shivaji's mentor Ramdas saint
Selected Sajjangad as his place ... 45

Think over it and don't say no.
After all this place is yours too.'
Bankatlal was helpless
And gave his consent.
Maharaj came to the temple
And every one rejoiced.
Bhaskar Patil stayed with him.
He enjoyed the choice ... 46

May this composition help seekers
To reach the feet of the saint.

Chapter Seven



The saint smiled unflappably.
No scars were seen on his body
Looking to the fact the rowdy boys got afraid
And bowed down to him falling prostrate.

Chapter 07

Shree Ganeshay namah

Glory to thee O Rama!
God of the color of clouds.
Consort of Sita, Son of Dasharath
And safe haven of saints galore.
With your blessings O Rama,
Monkeys defeated Ravana in Lanka.
Victory follows him
Who enjoys your blessings ... 1

He who gets your favors is revered by people
How so ever low he may be in his social status.
Am I suitable for such favor?
My condition is most pitiable.
I lack knowledge and devotion
My mind is unsteady and suspicious ... 2

With various desires haunting my mind
How can I expect you to be kind?
Logically it may sound alright
But the scripts point out
That you have pardoned many a sinner.
Liberating the pious is no wonder
But real greatness lies in saving the fallen ... 3

There is none greater than you
I invoke you to pardon my failings
And sanctify me O God!

With your blessings.
I completely surrender myself to you ... 4

The celebrations went full swing
With all the people at the temple
Khanderao from the Patil family
Was organizing the festival.
The Patil clan enjoyed a great heritage
Of wealth, land and property.
Devotion to sages and saints
Was a part of their legacy ... 5

With all the authority of a village head
Khanderao celebrated the event as said.
He came from the lineage of Mahadaji
Who had sons named Kadtaji and Kukaji.
Kukaji, the younger was a devotee
Of Vithoba, the Pandharpur Deity.
The family enjoyed blessings of Gomaji
A saint from village Nagzari ... 6

Kadtaji had six sons. They were Khanderao, Ganapati
Narayan Maruti, Hari and Krishnaji. Kukaji had none.
When Kadtaji died
The children were brought up by Kukaji as his own.
It was a rich family in the town ... 7

Kukaji brought prosperity to the Patil family.
Khanderao became the head
After Kukaji's death.
Khanderao had authority and prosperity.
Body building was the brothers' hobby.
They played games with swords and sticks.
Hari amongst them was a great athlete ... 8

People tried to please the Patil clan
Though the festival was for God Hanuman.
Patils had an irrational attitude
Which drove the town into annoying disputes.

Khanderao abused each one in the village
Not sparing even a saint or a sage.
When the brothers went to the temple
They started teasing Saint Gajanan ... 9

They fashioned indecent puns
Using the name of Saint Gajanan.
They challenged him to a wrestling fight
Asking him to prove his saintly might.
They invited the Saint to the stand
Or face a beating at their hands.
The Saint laughed at their folly
Bhaskar said, 'Let us go back to Akoli ... 10

Let us be away from these insolent boys
Corrupted by power, money and might.'
The Saint said, 'Bhaskar wait a bit
Patil brothers are all my devotees.
All they lack is decorum and modesty.
To understand them watch them closely.
Notice their affectionate liaison
Each of them is like my son ... 11

They enjoy blessings from various saints
Power is often accompanied by rudeness.
How can a tiger behave like a cow
Or burning fire be as cold as snow
How can the edge of a sword be mellow?
This attitude will eventually go
Like the turbidity of monsoon water
Getting clearer with the approach of winter ... 12

One day Hari came to the temple ground
And challenged the saint to a wrestling bout.
'Don't keep chanting your favorite hymn
'Gana gana ganat bote.' O! What a rhyme.
Since you are the heart of all respect
I want to test you in all aspects.

If you defeat me in wrestling you get a prize.'
The saint nodded to accept and sat quiet ... 13

He said, 'Come on, you are very strong
Pull me up from this position where I belong.
Hari used his strength all the way
But couldn't move the saint an inch away.
He tried all the tricks of wrestling
Until his tired body started perspiring.
He soon realized that the saint had won
Though his build looked a thin and frail one ... 14

The saint was a great mountain of strength
Undisturbed like a mighty elephant
Underrating the might of other creatures.
Hari felt like a jackal there.
Or like a barking dog before a tiger.
He had never bent down to a saint's feet
But now was the time to accept defeat
In utter surrender to the sacred seer ... 15

The saint looked up and said with a smile
'Defeat me or get me the promised prize.
Wrestling is the best of manly game form
Krishna in childhood played it with Balram.
They killed Mushtik and Chanur
Guards of Kansa, the wicked ruler.
Good health is the best wealth. Second is land,
And then money which all should have ... 16

Krishna living on banks of Yamuna
Made his playmates strong.
That's the way you do it in Shegaon.
Make them sturdy with great aplomb.
This is the only prize I am seeking.'
Hari astutely said, 'It can only be with your blessings.'
This was the moment when he learnt restraint.
And started behaving properly with the Saint ... 17

His brothers teased him for his weakness
And said, 'We are sons of Patil. Don't forget.
We enjoy the best authority in this region.
Why should we bow down to this naked person?
He is crazy gathering undeserved attention.
We have to curb this dumb orientation.
Let us now take immediate steps
And stop this nonsense in public interest.' ... 18

It is our duty to caution the precincts.
Phonies dupe folks by posing as saints.
Even gold has to stand the test of purity.
The sugarcane incident proved Tukaram's veracity.
Dyneshwar made a mark making a buffalo sing.
Gajanan has to prove himself by similar testing.
He has to attest his mettle in the popularity test.
Why don't we test him to that effect? ... 19

Thus saying they came to the temple
With a bundle of solid sugar cane.
Hari Patil was quiet and stayed away
But others were boisterous all the way.
They called the saint obscene names
And said, 'If you want to taste sugar cane
You have to bear a beating by them
But no scars could be seen anywhere.' ... 20

We will acclaim you as a yogi
If the thrashing shows no marks.
If it does then of course, you are a quack.
The saint smiled at the children's prattle.
Maruti said it seems he is baffled.
Ganapati said silence means half consent
They all started beating the reverend.
Except Bhaskar all devotees dispersed ... 21

He appealed to them to stop the torture
And spare the saint of benevolent nature.
Your family enjoys a great reputation

Be kind to all who are under your protection.
He may not be a saint as you believe
But spare him as an innocent man on the street.
Brave hunters attack fierce tigers
They don't shoot innocent grasshoppers ... 22

King Ravan's Lanka was set afire by Hanuman.
He never touched shanties of poor men.
The boys advised Bhaskar to stay off the fight
We are just testing his saintly might.
People here call him a great saint
We are assessing his saintly traits.
They continued thrashing him wild
Like pods in the field for the yield ... 23

The saint smiled unflappably.
No scars were seen on his body
Looking to the fact the rowdy boys got afraid
And bowed down to him falling prostrate.
Saint said, 'Boys your hands must be aching
I will compress juice for you. It's refreshing.'
He squeezed the canes with his bare hands
And gave juice to the boys as refreshment ... 24

How could he squeeze juice without a device?
This can be possible only with yogic exercise.
With this he wanted people to recognize
That yoga can improve national might.
The boys bowed down and ran back to Khanderao.
They told him of happenings and the saint of Shegaon.
With this Khanderao started visiting the saint
But his rustic language did not change ... 25

He never used honorific terms for any one.
Generally singular words are used on two occasions.
As in affection of mother and the offspring
Or by an authority to a menial under him.
Khanderao reckoned each one as his subject
And spoke to them with little respect.

That's why he addressed the saint in diminutives
But inflicting insult was not his motive.
His heart was like coconut with a hard shell,
Soft inside with sweet core and tasty kernel ... 26

Once Kukaji called Khandu Patil and said,
You speak of Gajanan as a great saint.
As you know day by day I am growing old,
I would like to see a grandson before I go.
Why do you stand dumb before him?
Go request the Saint to bless you with an offspring.
If he is really a seer
He will fulfill your desire ... 27

Khanderao approached the saint in a while.
Said uncle Kukaji is getting old
He wants to see the face of my child.
If you enjoy powers to fulfill devotees' desires
Why not bless me with a child as a favor?
Said the saint, 'Good! You ask for something
With all the wealth and power at your command.
You order everyone then why not the creator?' ... 28

'This is something beyond human volition,'
Said Khandu. 'Crops need water for growth.
Bringing rain down is beyond human try
That is why in famine the land is dry.
Human efforts bring fruitful results
When rain pours down on the thirsty fields.
That is the case with me O saint!
So bestow all your favors on me.' ... 29

The saint smiled and said, 'You beg for a child.
Since it is asking for alms
I bless you with a son.
You have to name him as Bhikya.
It is not all in my hands but I will request the Almighty
To fulfill your desires. ... 30

In turn you have to host a mango juice meal
To all the Brahmins in the town every year
As a token of your gratitude to the Creator.'
Khandu accepted the proposal and back he went
To tell Kukaji of the conversation with the saint.
Kukaji was happy. In due time a son was born
To Khandu's wife, bringing joy all around.
Kukaji's happiness knew no bounds ... 31

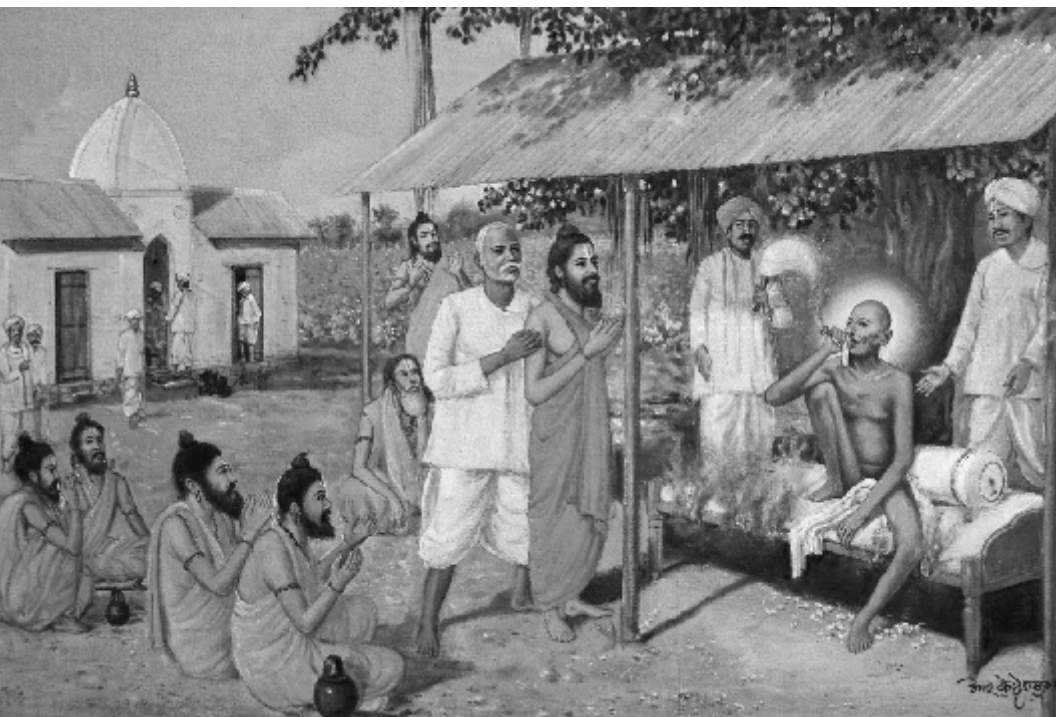
Khandu distributed sugar and wheat to the poor
And sweets to the children of Shegaon.
The child was named as Bhiku
Who grew up like the waxing moon.
As promised Khandu fed Brahmins with mango juice
And the practice continues with the descendents.
By the grace of the saint the child started crawling
In the house of Khandu Patil ... 32

This irritated the Deshmukh family of Shegaon
With Patils they were at daggers drawn.
The feud was going on for long
Between these two families strong.
They hunted for a chance to hurt each other.
They fought like two Pandits, two ministers,
Two fighters, two mechanics
Or two dogs facing each other ... 33

After seeing the grandchild, Kukaji died
On the banks of Bhima at Pandharpur.
Khandu was sad to lose his protector.
Looking to his state of mind
Deshmukhs grabbed the chance
To put the Patils in danger.
The details will follow
In the subsequent chapter ... 34

Please listen to this treatise to
Bring to you auspicious tidings.

Chapter Eight



In a little while the whole cot was in flames.
Bhaskar requested the saint to leave the cot.

He cautioned that it was of teakwood make
And would require water for putting out the blaze.
Said the saint, 'Don't get water to quench the fire.

Let Brahmagiri come and sit with me here.'
'Brahmagiri, you know Geeta with its meaning.
Now is the time for you to prove its essence

Chapter 08

Shree Ganeshay namah

O beloved son of Vasudeo and Devaki!
Protector of the Goap and Gopi's
Annihilator of demons, please bless me.
I am aware that devotion and penance
Are required to gain your favor
But I am unable to offer these.
Your praises are in Sanskrit, new to me ... 1

I cannot decipher those words. I am dumb.
How can a frog get honey out of a lotus bulb?
I am penniless and cannot obtain your favor
By feeding a batch of the poor.
I cannot visit shrines and holy places
To acquire your kind grace
Because of my health and fading eyesight.
I seem to be helpless on all sides ... 2

It is clear that hopes and dreams of the poor
Are never fulfilled.
Even then your blessings fetch delight.
I am aware you don't have to be rich to get it.
When clouds pour down water
Lakes and rivers get their fill in full.
I look forward to the showers of happiness.
A drop of nectar removes all sickness ... 3

In the last chapter we talked of a family feud
Between the houses of Patil and Deshmukh.

Such unhealthy rivalry brews tension.
Tuberculosis of body and social friction spell disaster
Defeating efforts to ease the situation.
The event here was triggered by a mahar's refusal
To obey the orders of Khanderao,
The highest authority in Shegaon ... 4

Marya Mahar, the mail carrier stayed near the lake.
He enjoyed a special privilege at Deshmukh's place.
With taunts and uncouth filthy words
He declined to execute Khanderao's work.
He was warned to behave himself
More so as Khandu was head of the place.
Marya disregarded the admonition
And teased Khandu with obscene gesticulations ... 5

The cause of this altercation was plain.
Patil had some mail to send to Akola police station.
He asked Marya to take it to the destination.
Marya refused saying I am Deshmukh's man
I don't take orders from you, understand.
He ridiculed Patil infuriating him a lot
Resulting in a blow by a stick on his arm.
That hard force had fractured his hand ... 6

Patil sent the mail with someone else.
Relatives of Marya took him to Deshmukh's place.
This gave Deshmukhs a chance to harass Patil.
They took Marya to the police station in a bid
To lodge a complaint about the happening.
All tensions in society
Are blown up the community to an enormity.
A complaint was registered by the authority ... 7

Orders were issued to arrest Khanderao.
The news spread like wildfire in Shegaon.
Patil developed a lot of fear
And worried about the impending danger.

He prayed to God Almighty
To save him from arrest and indignity.
For a man of his status, humiliation is worse than death.
His brothers too looked worried and helpless ... 8

Then it suddenly occurred to Khandu Patil
That he better see the saint and seek his help
As no one else can save him from this mishap.
His brothers went to Akola to seek legal advice
Khandu Patil went straight to the saint at night.
He bowed down to Maharaj and told the story.
'I thrashed him as he refused to do Government duty.
Deshmukhs are using this event to put me in difficulty ... 9

They are trying to get me arrested.
None else except you can help me at this stage.
May be the police will take me tomorrow.
I would like to kill myself before I go.
I am a man of dignity
And the insult of arrest is like death to me.
I accept I was violent in that situation
But the whole thing is blown out of proportion ... 10

Please save me O kind saint from this contempt.
In the episode of Jayadrath in Mahabharat
Arjun was ready to burn himself for dignity
God saved him and protected his honor.
God also saved the respect and honor of Droupadi
By providing her saris at the right hour.
My self-respect is being stripped here like Droupadi' ... 11

Khandu's eyes were tearful when he begged for blessings.
His brothers were worried over the arrest impending.
Maharaj hugged Khandu Patil and said,
'A man of responsibility has to face such a fate
And has to be ready for it.
Such things happen due to selfishness and sinful thoughts.
You and Deshmukh belong to the same caste
Yet selfishness has torn you apart ... 12

The enmity between Kaurav and Pandav
In the epic of Mahabharat developed due to self-interest.
Pandav were legally right
Thus almighty was on their side
Kaurav were defeated so you don't have to be afraid.
Deshmukh will ultimately fail ... 13

Eventually Khandu was declared as not guilty.
Blessing of saints cannot be deemed paltry.
Patil brothers got closer to the saint
After this challenging occurrence.
Who would not like to sip nectar
The heavenly life giving elixir?
A few days later Patils took the Saint
To stay in their family ... 14

At their place came some Telangi Brahmins
Orthodox learned and well-versed in Vedic prayers
In spite of this greed for money tinged their behavior.
They had come with the hope of getting some here.
Maharaj was sleeping when they came in.
They started to sing the Vedic hymns.
The intention was to awaken the saint
And attract his attention towards them ... 15

The recitation involved a mistake
Which the Brahmins did not correct
Maharaj was upset. He got up and said,
'You are damaging the greatness of Vedic hymns.
They are no tools of business.
They have lessons to teach.
Show some respect to your gear
Which indicates that you are Vedic seers.
Now I recite the words and you repeat ... 16

Don't misguide innocent believers.'
Saying so he repeated the chapter
With not a single mistake in the text.
The pronunciation was clear in all respect.

It appeared as if Sage Vashistha himself was singing
Those powerful prayers to the ruler of all beings.
The Brahmins felt ashamed and hung their faces.
It was like holding a candle
Against the sun's radiant grace ... 17

The Brahmins had come with an impression
That Saint Gajanan was a crazy someone
But found him to be a learned giant
And were certain that four Vedas were in his person.
They thought of the Saint as God incarnate
He must be a Brahmin without attachment.
Because of good deeds of previous birth
They were fortunate to have his darshan on earth ... 18

The saint told Khandu to give them a Rupee each.
They departed happily with this deed.
Maharaj like a true saint
Disliked too much of attachment
To life and people of the town
And decided to shift out on his own.
He moved to a garden to the north of Shegaon
Under the cool dark shade of a neem tree. 19

There was a temple of Lord Shiva in the garden
Krishnaji, the youngest brother owned this one.
The saint said to Krishnaji that he was there
To stay in the vicinity of Lord Shiv Shankar.
If this is a place He likes, it also is the place for me.
Please get a tiny shed built here for me.
Very soon it became a place of pilgrimage
Town where king stays becomes capital of the state... 20

Bhaskar and Tukaram Kokate stayed with the saint
To offer him routine care and comfort to a great extent.
Krishnaji supervised the food preparations
And took meals after Maharaj had done.
About twenty ascetics once came to the garden
They had heard about Saint Shree Gajanan

They told Krishnaji they were on pilgrimage
To Rameshwar with holy waters of Ganges ... 21

'We are disciples of Shree Brahmagiri
Who is fortunately with us on this journey
We travelled afoot to holy places like Gangotri
Kedar, Hinglaj, Girnar, Dakor and Jamanotri.
God works as a slave in Brahmagiri's house
Good deeds of your past have brought him here now.
All we want is a shirapuri meal and few puffs of heroin.
We will be here for three days
And then go on our routine ... 22

Do not miss the chance of serving our class
Instead of that crazy man lying across.
It is like kicking a cow and feeding a jackass.
We are ascetics who have renounced the world
We are masters of Vedas. Come listen to our words.
'We will make Shirapuri tomorrow.' Said Krishnaji,
'Let it be just bhakri and besan today as a proxy.
There is no problem about heroin puffs as I see.'... 23

It was noon time. The lunch was over by the well.
They sat in the shade with people as evening fell.
Facing Mahant Brahmagiri and Shegaon's saint.
Brahmagiri read the Geeta and
Conveyed the gist of a hymn.
Saying the soul is eternal and no device can split it.
Brahmagiri was a fraud with no spiritual attainments
And the people were not impressed by his sermons.
They could see that he was playing with the words ... 24

People got up and went to the darshan of their saint.
'We heard the philosophy. It was phony.
We see the reality in you.' They said.
The ascetics who were now smoking heroin
Were irritated by this remark to a great extent.
A spark from the pipe of the saint

Fell on his cot and slowly spread.
Smoke started coming out of the bed ... 25

In a little while the whole cot was in flames.
Bhaskar requested the saint to leave the cot.
He cautioned that it was of teakwood make
And would require water for putting out the blaze.
Said the saint, 'Don't get water to quench the fire.
Let Brahmagiri come and sit with me here.'
'Brahmagiri, you know Geeta with its meaning.
Now is the time for you to prove its essence ... 26

Prove that fire won't burn Brahma.
You have given a discourse for the last hour.
You shouldn't be scared of sitting with me here.'
'Bhaskar, go and bring him here with due respect
And make him sit here to prove the aspect.'
Bhaskar was a well-built man. With these orders
He caught hold of Brahmagiri to bring him there.
The saint did not shift a bit from the fire ... 27

In Bhagwat, Prahlad .. Son of Kayadhu
Was made to stand on burning fire.
The saint enacted the same scene
In Krishna Patil's garden here.
When Bhaskar caught hold of Brahmagiri
He prayed to Bhaskar
'Don't take me to the burning cot.
I failed to recognize the authority of the Master ... 28

Bhaskar dragged Brahmagiri to Maharaj who said,
'Prove the statement which says,
Fire doesn't burn it.'
Brahmagiri got scared and replied,
'I became an ascetic for good food and an easy life.
I fruitlessly tried to learn Geeta verse
And called you crazy without any remorse.
I regret the misdemeanor and beg to be excused.' ... 29

People from Shegaon begged of the saint
To leave the burning cot for their sake.
They were frantically afraid
Of seeing him engulfed in the flames.
Brahmagiri hung his face in shame.
He had nothing to express.
To honor people's sentiments
The saint alighted from that burning bed ... 30

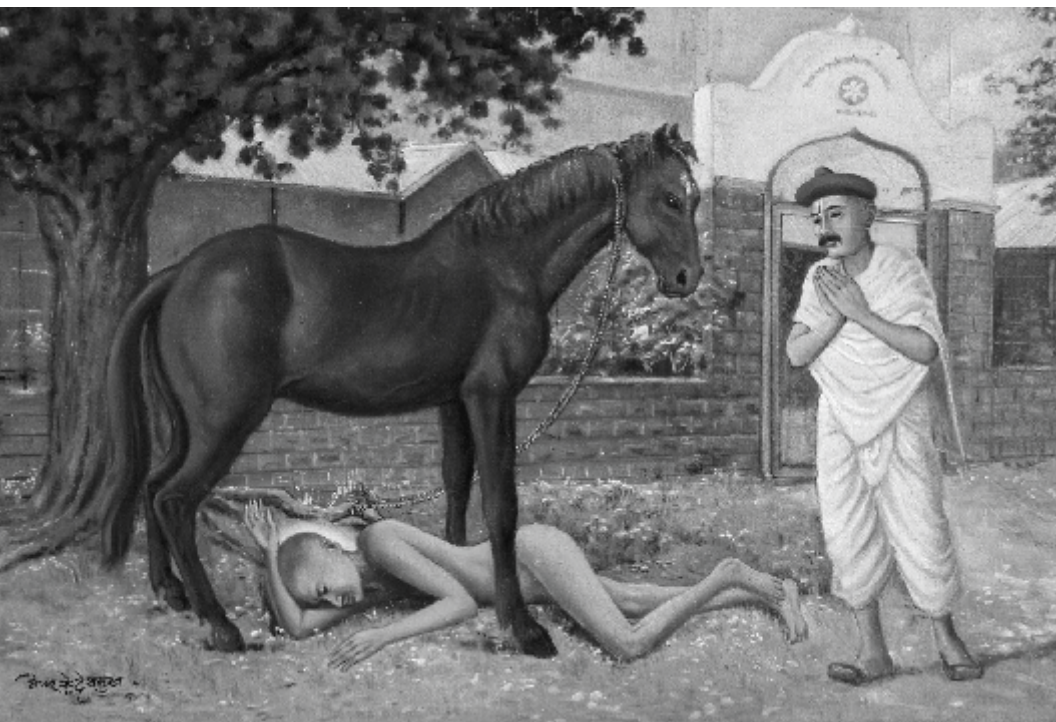
The cot then collapsed in a moment.
People threw water to put out the blaze.
And save just a part of it
As an evidence of the event.
Brahmagiri fell prostrate before Maharaj
And purified himself from all his faults.
With waters of Ganges touching impurity
How can things remain dirty? ... 31

At midnight the saint advised Brahmagiri
'Shun hypocrisy. A saint has to forego worldly pleasures.
One should be learned himself before preaching to
others.
Learning words without understanding them
Or preaching the spirit behind them is worthless.
Understand the spirit behind what you learn.
Machindra, Jalandar, Gorakh, Gahini and Dyaneshwar
All enjoyed great authority in all spheres ... 32

Shree Shankaracharya attained self realization.
Eknath, a family man achieved salvation.
Swami Samarth, a brahmachari accomplished the goal.
Remember these sages and stop wandering for shirapuri.
It would be a worthless waste of time for everybody.'
Brahmagiri quietly listened to his advice
And left the place early morning with disciples.
Next day people gathered to see the burnt cot ... 33

We hope this treatise will liberate
The readers from the material attachments.

Chapter Nine



He went to the proximity with great anxiety.
And was astonished to see
Someone sleeping under the standing beast.
When he carefully looked down
He saw Saint Gajanan on the ground.
He could now easily decipher
The reason of the horse being somber

Chapter 09

Shree Ganeshay namah

Consort of Rukhamini
Residing by the Chandrabhaga River
Playing flute and blessing the seers.
You are the savior of all browbeaten,
A sea of compassion spread all over.
People who are great radiate inspite of pettiness around.
Almighty comes into prominence
Wherein the sinners abound ... 1

You are called the saviour because of us sinners.
Touchstone gets importance because it turns
Iron into gold.
River Godavari is holy because of the tributaries.
O Madhav, think this over
And do me a favor.
Please lend me a helping hand
To save me from going under ... 2

A famous devotee singing laurels to God
Once came to offer such prayers at Shegaon.
This was at Shiva's temple which was ancient.
An affluent person named Mote had renovated it.
Nowadays the rich are not fond of temples.
They like cars, clubs and bicycles.
Mote was not a person of that sort.
He was a keen devotee of God ... 3

He renovated the place for the people.
That's how it was called Mote's temple.
The singer of hymnes Govindbua Taklikar
Camped that day at this temple.
Tying his horse at the front entrance.
The beast was very rough.
It kicked people who came close.
Sometimes it snapped the tied ropes ... 4

Sometimes it sprinted in to the woods.
It neighed day and night as per its moods.
It was a package of all bad habits.
Govindbua had made a special chain to fix it.
But he forgot to bring it in this visit.
He got a rope and tied it with a hope
That it would not cut loose
While the Bua was resting in the temple ... 5

When it was midnight and the world was plunged in the dark,
When the nocturnal birds frightened all
While in search of their daily snatch,
When the gates of the town were closed
And dead silence prevailed around
And not a soul was seen on the road,
Saint Gajanan came to the site
Where the horse was tied ... 6

Saints take birth on the surface of this earth
As ordained by the Creator
To improve the behavior of hopeless characters.
Just as medication cures diseases
The saints helps remove wickedness
From the misguided masses.
Saint Gajanan walked to the steed
And slept in the place under it indeed! ... 7

He recited his favorite hymn
'Gan gan ganat bote.' All the time.

Saying, 'Understand always
Soul and Brahma are the same.
Don't you ever think
That they are different entities.'
There are a few variations to the hymn
Yet the purport is the same sublime ... 8

The horse stood still all the time.
Bua was always apprehensive
Of what the horse would do.
He often got up to check up on its tricks.
When he saw the horse standing still
For a moment he thought it was ill.
This was an unusual scene for Govind
As never before he saw it so tranquil ... 9

He went to the proximity with great anxiety.
And was astonished to see
Someone sleeping under the standing beast.
When he carefully looked down
He saw Saint Gajanan on the ground.
He could now easily decipher
The reason of the horse being somber ... 10

The horse was quieted down by the saint
Like the scent of musk subduing bad smell.
Bua put his head on feet of the saint and said,
'O saint you are really Gajanan
Who removes all obstructions.
I have experienced it today.
People were scared of its behavior
Which you have corrected in the colt this way ... 11

It has a habit of jumping and kicking
While it is walking.
I was fed up with it and wanted to sell it.
Unfortunately no one would buy it
Not even take it for free.
I am obliged to you for calming it down.

Horse of a preacher like me
Should be as gentle as it can be ... 12

A tiger is a great danger in a shepherd's house.
Thus with the influence of Shree Gajanan
The horse gone off track came to be normal.
Saint said to the horse, 'Leave your bad habits
And turn to be a gentle animal.
You are standing in front of God Shiva
Behave like a humble bull.
Now don't try to bother anyone ... 13

The saint went his way after correcting the horse.
Next day when he was in the garden
Bua came to see him riding his animal.
People of Shegaon who knew the horse well
Said, 'Why did you bring this horse of bad spell?
It will do harm to the ladies and children.'
Bua said, 'Now the colt is sober
Because of the blessings of Saint Gajanan ... 14

Its queer habits have disappeared overnight
None should now be scared of it.'
The horse stood free under the tree
Without a rope or chain.
This was all due to the blessing of the saint.
Fresh vegetables and green grass was around
The horse did not touch them though it was untied.
See how saints have power to change habits unsound ... 15

Bua praised Maharaj with prayer that follows:
'No one in the world understands your acts
Your benediction will guide
Even a villain to the right path
You have the power to sense shortcomings.
Please sanctify me with your kind blessings.'
So saying Govind bua left for Takli ... 16

People came to Shegaon from far and near
To see the Saint and fulfill their desires

Among them were two Brahmins from Balapur
Who pledged to bring heroin on their next tour
Against the fulfillment of their wishes.
They knew the saint preferred a smoke over sweets.
They forgot about the heroin on their next visit.
They felt shy and vowed double for the next time ... 17

Seeing them again the Saint said to Bhaskar,
'Look at these people's behavior
They promise something and don't recall it
They are Brahmins and should behave as they preach
That's how the caste has lost its prestige.
If they vow things and forget it
How can their desires get fulfilled?
They better honor their vow before asking God's blessings
... 18

The Brahmins were extremely hurt
To hear this sharp remark
And looked at each other with great surprise
As to how the Saint could fathom their intent.
As they saw that the saint knew everything
About the vows and the subsequent failings,
They got up to go to the market
And get heroin as promised to the saint ... 19

Where upon Gajanan's remarks were quick,
'Why are you crying over split milk?
I don't have any craze for heroin
So don't run to the market in vain.
Only remember one thing
Keep your promises to deserve God's blessings
As liars never can achieve them.
Now go and get it when your desires are fulfilled ... 20

Your wish will be fulfilled next week.
But remember to come here five times
For a glimpse of God Shiva the mighty.
With His blessings God Kuber got wealthy.

Go bow down to Him and do not forget
To bring heroin on your visit next.
One should never violate
Vows made to God and saints.' ... 21

They accordingly bowed to God Shiva in the crowd
Before returning to their town.
Next week after their wishes were fulfilled
They came back with a heroin pack
As per the promise
Which was neglected before ... 22

There is another story from Balapur.
In that town lived Balakrishna, a devotee
Of Samarth Shree Ramdas Swami.
His wife Putalabai was a pious lady.
They used to visit Sajjangad on foot
The journey used to start in the month of Poush
With a horse to carry their luggage
Consisting of a hand rest, Dasbodh and a carpet ... 23

Their piety did not harbour any ego
The couple collected alms on the way.
They offered food to God before they ate
It was one of their journey's traits.
They used to leave Balapur town
On the ninth day of Paush in the waning moon.
He played sandalwood clippers and she the cymbals.
On their lips they had name of Shree Ram ... 24

They travelled to Sajjangad via Shegaon,
Khamgaon, Mehakar, Deoolgaon Raja
Then Anandiswami's abode Jalna
Further to village Jamb, birth place of sant Ramdas.
They used to stay there for three days
Before proceeding to Divara, Beed, Mohori.
The next stop was Dongaon, birth place of Kalyan
Who was a devotee of Sant Ramdas ... 25

They touched Narsingpur, Pandharpur
Natepote Vai, Satara and Shinganapur
Before reaching Sajjangad in Magh
On the first day of the waning moon
To attend the celebrations of Magh Navami.
As an offering to Sant Ramdas Swami
They arranged for food for Brahmins
As far as their finances could permit ... 26

It is really difficult now to find a devotee
Of his status in the community.
After the Das Navami event
They returned to Balapur the way they come.
This routine continued year after year
Until Balkrishna reached his sixtieth year.
At sixty when he started on the return journey
He sat near the Samadhi of the swami ... 27

With tears in his eyes and sadness in his heart
He appealed to Sant Ramdas with a humble mind.
'O all powerful Ramdas, my mentor and guide
I am getting old now. My age I cannot hide.
Henceforth I may not be able to walk the distance.
Even coming on vehicles seems to be difficult.
I have been following the routine so far
But it does not seem to be possible hereafter ... 28

As you know good health is an essential thing
In the observance of any devotional routine.'
Praying thus Balkrishna fell asleep.
He saw Ramdas in his dream.
The saint started speaking to him.
He said, 'Don't be distressed
You need not henceforward
Come to visit this place Sajjangad ... 29

I am much pleased with your devotion.
You can celebrate the Navami function

In your house from next year onwards.
I will be there on that day.
Take this as my promise.
Be prudent in your expenditure.
Any expenses on such functions
Should be within means of the devotee.' ... 30

Balkrishna was happy over the dream.
He and his wife came back to Balapur in time.
On the first of Magh in his town next year
He initiated the function with a fanfare.
It started with reading of Dasbodh in the morning
Culminating in prayers in the evening.
Food was served to Brahmins at lunchtime.
At dusk an aarati was sung in good rhythm ... 31

During the celebrations all these days
One thought kept bothering Balkrishna always
When will the Swami come as promised?
Will he arrive on the day specified?
The villagers had contributed cash with zeal
As per devotee Balkrishna's appeal
Which saw the function go galore
In that small town of Balapur ... 32

On the ninth day there was a surprise.
At noon Gajanan Maharaj appeared at the site
When Balkrishna and the gathering were offering
Worship to Ramchandra, the Supreme Being.
Balkrishna was happy to see the saint
Yet at the same time he said
He has been eagerly looking forward
To the arrival of Swami as per his word ... 33

I don't believe that his promised will fail.
While these thoughts were to the fore
Shree Gajanan stood at the door
And said aloud, 'Jai Jai Raghuveer Samarth.'

A slogan in praise of God Ramachandra.
He recited lines from 'Psalms of Mind.'
Saying how the touch of Ram's feet changed a rock
back to Ahalya and she attained bliss ... 34

These were compositions of Ramdas.
Balkrishna saw the saint reciting the lines
Standing there long armed and bare bodied.
He bowed down and looked up again
And saw Ramdas in that place.
Balkrishna was overwhelmed with love and affection
Of Ramdas in keeping up his assertions.
His eyes were filled with tears of elation ... 35

A moment later it was the saint
And then Ramdas Swami again.
The appearances flipped flopped alternately
Just like trick scenes in a movie.
Balkrishna was bewildered
And could not understand the mystery.
Saint Gajanan said, 'Be unperturbed
I am your Ramdas Swami.' ... 36

'I lived in Sajjangad in the past.
Now I reside in the garden at Shegaon.
As per promise given to you last year
I have come to meet you here.
Don't harbor any doubts in your mind.
Soul remains the same while bodies change.
Remember what the Geeta says.
Come now offer a seat to me.' ... 37

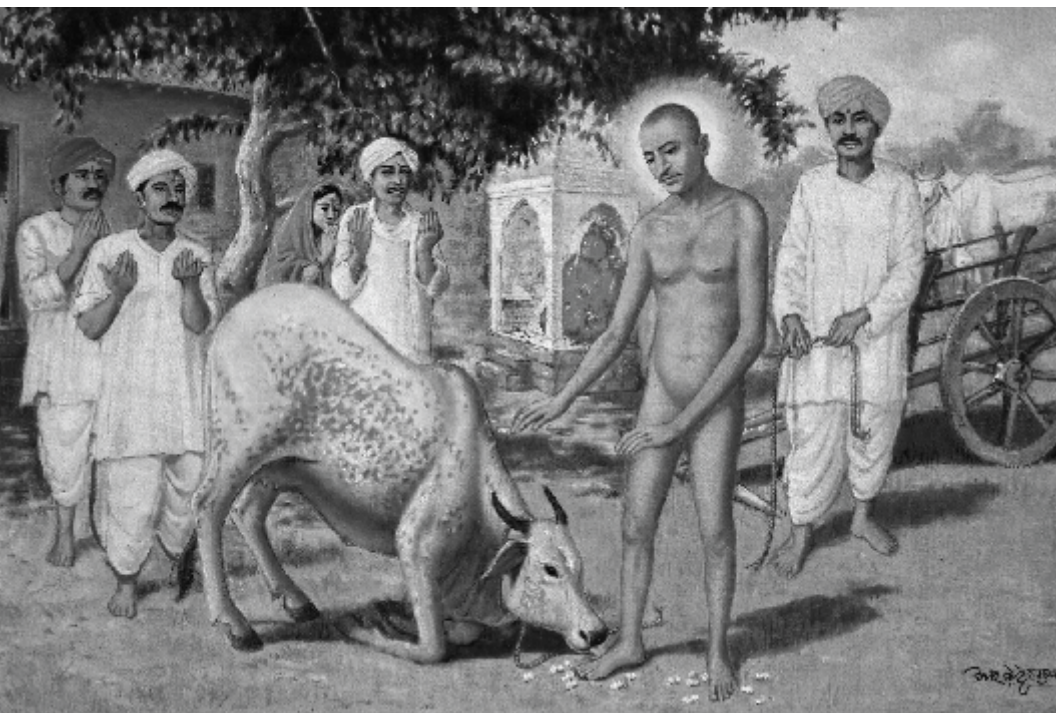
Shree Gajanan Maharaj held Balkrishna's hand,
Entered the house and sat on the seat called 'pat'.
The news of saint's arrival spread like wild fire
Folks flocked at the door to have a glimpse of the seer.
Balkrishna adored the saint musing over his statement.
At night Sant Ramdas appeared in his dreams and said,
'Saint Gajanan is my incarnation.

Harbor no suspicion. It may harm you.
Worshipping him will win my admiration.' ... 38

After seeing the dream, with great respect
Balkrishna bowed down to the saint and said,
'You have removed all my doubts
By appearing in my dream.
I am now satisfied with my celebration of Navami.
Please do me a favor, Stay here for a few days.'
Which the saint did and went back to Shegaon
And was not seen by anyone on the way ... 39

May this treatise bring happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Ten



She went around him thrice with her head hung
And licked his feet with her tongue.
People were surprised to see her behavior.
The saint talked to the cow in a humble demeanor,
'O cow don't any more bother anyone
And live here only from now on.'
When this happened people raised cheers
In praise of Shree Gajanan the seer

Chapter 10

Shree Ganeshay namah

O lord of the cosmos, Deity of Pandharpur.
You are formless and complete in yourself.
You are the protector of the virtuous' merits.
Please don't push me away from your feet.
O Narayan, do not disown me nor think of my sins.
There are no pious deeds to my credit.
As such I don't deserve to come near you.
In spite of all this please accept and oblige me ... 1

Accept me like holy Godavari
Which lets in the small tributaries.
With that you will save me
From my grief and all my sins.
You are all powerful
And if you wish you can do anything.
Even a pauper becomes rich
With your kind blessings ... 2

Once Gajanan Maharaj went to Amaravati
To stay with Shree Atmaram Bhikaji.
Atmaram was Kayastha Prabhu by caste,
Held an important office in the ranks.
He was pious and very devoted
And adored saints to a immeasurably
He worshipped the Saint offering him a bath,
Anointing him with sandalwood paste ... 3

He offered the Saint a silk bordered dhoti from Umred.
Applied a saffron dot on his forehead.
He was honored with flower wreaths
And various dishes savory and sweet
With cash offering of one hundred Rupees.
This was followed by aarati and incense agarbatti.
Fragrant flowers were put on his head.
All those present wished he was their guest ... 4

Though many desired, only few would have the favor
As it requires a lot of pious deeds to one's credit
To get the saint to one's houses to touch his holy feet.
The saint understood things with his divine power
And visited only those who had intrinsic merit.
There was a leading lawyer in Amaravai
Named Ganesh Shrikrishna Khaparde. He was wealthy,
Called Dadasaheb of the Shukla Yajurvedi Brahmin society
... 5

Maharaj went to him at his request
He was offered due respect.
There was one Ganesh Appa, a Lingayat Wani
Who had a devoted wife named Chandrabai.
She told to her husband that some how
The saint should visit their house.
She asked Ganesh Appa to go and request
The saint to come to visit their tenement ... 6

She said, 'If our thoughts are pious
The Saint will be agreed to visit us
Because God is always gracious
To devotees He deems precious.'
Said Ganesh Appa, 'It's foolish to think so.
It requires lot of recommendation
From people of influence
To arrange a visit of the saint ... 7

Look at the troubles Dadasaheb had to face
For taking the saint to his place.

In view of this please don't press the issue further.'
Said Chandrabai, 'I don't agree with this.
My mind says he will come to us.
The saints have a special affinity for the poor.
Thus go and try once and request him
To grace us with his visit valuable.' ... 8

Ganesh Appa could not gather courage
To put forward his humble request
But Maharaj read his mind and said,
'I wish to come to your house.
Please tell me how far it is from here.
You should not hesitate to open your mind
And tell me what you want.
Come; take me to your place.' ... 9

Ganesh Appa's joy knew no bounds
He took Maharaj to his house.
They respectfully worshipped him
And offered him all their belongings.
Much such worship was offered at Amaravati.
Present each time was a humble personality.
He was the nephew of Atmaram Bhikaji
Working as telegraph master in Mumbai ... 10

Balabhau had come on leave to see
His maternal uncle Atmaram Bhikaji.
He felt a great attachment
To the Saint Shree Gajanan.
And did not want to leave him for a moment.
He thought of mundane attachments
As purely transient
And decided on renouncing family commitments ... 11

These thoughts made him stay with Maharaj.
Who would reject nectar and take poison?
He attended all worship in Amaravati
With no other reason behind it.
After a few days the saint returned

To the Shegaon temple
Instead of the garden where he was earlier ... 12

To the east of the temple was a vacant lot
Maharaj went and occupied the spot.
Krishnaji got the news of saint's coming
And abandoning the earlier garden setting.
He came and prostrated before the saint
And sat there with his head bowed.
With tears in his eyes he wondered
Why the saint didn't return to the garden ... 13

'Why are you weeping? What's the grief?'
Asked Maharaj, 'Tell me quick.'
Patil with folded hands asked Gajanan,
'Why did you not return to the garden?
What is my unpardonable offence?
I am just a child. Please remove the suspense.
You are sitting on a piece of land
Which belongs to the gardener of the Deshmukh clan. ... 14

Please don't stay here. If you so wish
Come to my house. I will vacate it in a minute.
O saint, let me be clear.
I will give up everything for you to be there.'
When Patil brothers knew he came
They arrived with a request that he stays with them.
To this the saint replied
My being here has a purpose implied ... 15

You will realize it later on though.
Don't ask me anything now.
I assure that this action will settle the feud
Between the clans of Patil and Deshmukh.
People in authority suffer from confusion
They fail to consider the consequences of their action.
Please go and call Bankatlal
When I left his house he was not disturbed at all. ... 16

Go and ask him why it was so.
My blessings are with you and will continue
In the future too.'
When Bankatlal came he said
'Don't take him to your place if he doesn't wish to go.
I did not obstruct him a bit when he left my place.
We are his children.
He loves us with the same generous grace always. ... 17

Sakharam Asolkar, the owner of that plot
Is very generous at heart.
He won't hesitate to give the land to Maharaj.
Once this is done, our future plan
Will enable all of us to come together.'
Thus there was a compromise
A monastery was soon built
With Parasharam Saoji's relentless efforts ... 18

Shree Maharaj had four men of reverence,
Persons with deep devotion,
Bhaskar, Balabhau, Pitambar
And Ganeshappa of Amaravati.
Later on Ramchandra Gurao joined them with heart
To make them five like Pandav of Mahabharat
With Shree Gajanan Maharaj
As God Shrihari amidst the pious lot ... 19

Balabhau felt completely resigned
From the routine of this worldly life.
He did not care for his service.
Letters from home asking him to come back
Could not get him back on the track.
Bhaskar then said to the saint,
'Balabhau does not go because of the sweets he gets.
I think a good thrashing will show him his place. ... 20

A monkey can be controlled only with a cane,
Big mountains are scared of thunderbolt in rain.

Balabhau was driven out against his wish.
But he came back after resigning from service.
Bhaskar thrashed him and said bluntly,
'Stop bothering us thus frequently.
Why do you visit us here
Like a stubborn bull going to green pastures? ... 21

Only those who have renounced worldly pleasures
Enjoy the privilege of being with the seer.'
Maharaj was not happy at this egoistic talk.
To bring back Bhaskar to right thinking
He grabbed the umbrella of someone on visit
And started thrashing Balabhau with it.
When it broke down he took a cane
And started beating Balabhau again ... 22

People got frightened and started running away.
Balabhau lay unconscious during this fray.
With that beating many thought he was dead.
Bhaskar got worried but said nothing to the saint.
Soon the cane too broke into bits.
Maharaj started trampling him with his feet
As does a potter on mud in the pit.
During this time someone called Krishnaji and Bankat ... 23

They came running to the site
They could not save Balabhau from his plight.
Bankatlal then gathered some courage
And requested Maharaj to curb his rage.
'Please spare him O saint he is your devotee.
You have thrashed him a lot, he deserves mercy.
At this the saint smiled and said with no regret,
'You are talking something irrelevant.' ... 24

I have not beaten or trampled Balabhau.
You can see it yourself. Why don't you?
Go and examine his body for scars.
Balabhau, get up and show where they are.'
When he got up they examined him carefully.

Not a single scar of beating was seen on his body.
He was as happy as he was earlier.
This was all staged to teach a lesson to Bhaskar ... 25

Maharaj showed Bhaskar
The privilege and importance
Which Balabhau enjoyed in his esteem
Can not be mowed down by any means.
Bhaskar behaved very well
Thereafter with his associate.
Even gold has to undergo a test
To prove its genuineness ... 26

One Sukhlal Agarwal of Balapur
Owned a very wicked cow.
She wandered the streets without qualms
Hurting people with her horns.
She entered grocery stores and ate the grains
Toppling the rest on roads
She kicked containers of ghee and oil
Spilling the contents on the soil ... 27

She would snap the rope when tied at home.
She broke the chains with all her vigor.
All her movements were that of a tiger.
People of Balapur were fed up with her.
She was not capable of getting any progeny,
Never remained in indoor custody.
Many advised Sukhlal to hand her over to a butcher. ... 28

'Get her shot.' Someone said.
Sukhlal authorized them to do what is best.
A pathan once tried to shoot her.
She had sensed it much earlier.
Fiercely she attacked the gunman
Throwing him away by her horns.
Sukhlal took her to another town in vain
But she returned to Balapur again ... 29

Someone remembered that Govindbua's horse
Was tamed by Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He advised Sukhlal to take the cow there
And give her away as an offering to the seer,
Thereby serving a dual purpose,
Getting rid of the wicked animal without efforts
And earning piety by giving a cow to the saint.
Everyone liked this suggestion of a gift ... 30

Attempts to catch the cow failed at every instance
Then they heaped cotton seeds and green grass
As a bait to trap her when she chomps
Fifteen men surrounded her with sturdy ropes.
They caught and chained her from horns to toes
And lifted her on to a bullock cart to go.
They drove her to the town of Shegaon
To donate her to Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 31

On her journey she appeared soothing down.
When brought to the saint she was extremely calm.
With tearful eyes she looked up to the saint
Where upon the Maharaj said,
'You are all crazy to have tortured the cow
Tying her neck, horns and legs, I vow.
Those ropes and chains are a great torture.
Such precautions are best only for a tiger ... 32

You fools you know cow is like a mother
You have committed a sin by afflicting pain on her.
Please unshackle her at once.
She will not do any harm to anyone.'
Even with this assurance no one dared touch her.
At this, Maharaj went and released her.
As soon as she was set free the cow came near
And with folded forelegs bowed to the seer ... 33

She went around him thrice with her head hung
And licked his feet with her tongue.
People were surprised to see her behavior.

The saint talked to the cow in a gentle tone,
'O cow don't any more bother anyone
And live here only from now on.'
When this happened people raised cheers
In praise of Shree Gajanan the seer ... 34

The Balapur crowd went back to their city.
The humbled cow stayed back in the monastery.
No ropes or chains were needed for her.
She moved about as a meek animal.
Even today the town of Shegaon
Has her progeny living along.
The saints always do good things.
They never go wrong ... 35

Lakshman Ghude, Vajsaniya Brahmin,
A rich resident of Karanja village
Had an ailment of the stomach
Which had become acute with his age.
He had tried various medicines spending a lot
But it had no substantial effect.
Hearing the name of Gajanan Maharaj
He came with his wife to the saint ... 36

The disease was a great pain.
All efforts to walk were in vain.
He required help to carry him to the monastery
Two or three persons helped him in the journey.
He couldn't even bend
To bow down to the saint.
His wife bent down and begged
For the well being of her beloved ... 37

Her dedicated prayer was,
'O benevolent Gajanan Maharaj
I am like your daughter.
I request you to cure
My husband from the agonies
Of his dreadful disease.

When nectar is at hand
Messengers of death have to disband.' ... 38

The Saint was eating a mango that time
He threw it on Lakshman's wife
'Go, feed this mango to him
This will cure him of the disease.
You are his devoted wife.'
He kept quiet for a while
And started smoking his pipe.
The lady remained still seated beside ... 39

'O respected lady!' said Bhaskar,
'Do not just sit here.
Take your husband back to your place
And feed him with fruit given as a grace.
As soon as he swallows the mango nectar
It will cure him from his chronic disorder.'
She returned to Karanja with her husband
And fed the mango to Lakshman ... 40

People asked her about the Shegaon visit
She told them of the Saint and mango gift.
She said she gave it to her husband.
The doctors said it was all absurd.
It will do great harm to Lakshman.
It will aggravate his present condition.
They quoted ancient Vaidyas of our land
Saying how in this case mango juice is bad ... 41

They said, 'You should have eaten mango as 'prasad'.
The effect would have reached your husband.'
Everyone started criticizing her.
But then a wonder happened.
Lakshman had a large purge.
This eased his system to a great extent.
Slowly he recovered
And regained his normal health ... 42

His stomach ailment was all cured.
Doctors cannot do anything beyond nature.
At times like this, the blessings
Of god and saints help devotees to recover.
Lakshman went to Shegaon
When he was completely cured.
He respectfully asked the saint
To visit Karanja and his house there ... 43

He said, 'Sanctify my house
By the touch of your feet O saint.'
At first Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Was very much reluctant
But at Lakshman's repeated requests
He agreed to visit the place
With Shankar, Bhau and Pitambar
In accompaniment ... 44

Lakshman welcomed Maharaj at his house
And performed a detailed worship.
At the offering of Dakshina he said,
'Everything here belongs to you, my lordship.
Who am I to give you anything?'
Saying so he filled a tray with Rupees
And tendered it at the saint's feet.
Maharaj's remarks were astonishing ... 45

He said, 'If you say all this belongs to me
Where from did you bring these Rupees?
Don't try to trick me with your hypocrisy.
Since all this is mine according to you
Open all doors and throw away the locks.'
Lakshman kept quiet at this moment.
'Go, open the safe and bring out the contents.'
Lakshman opened it yet guarded the entrance ... 46

He said to the saint, 'Take what you like.'
Though he said so, he was insincere in his mind.

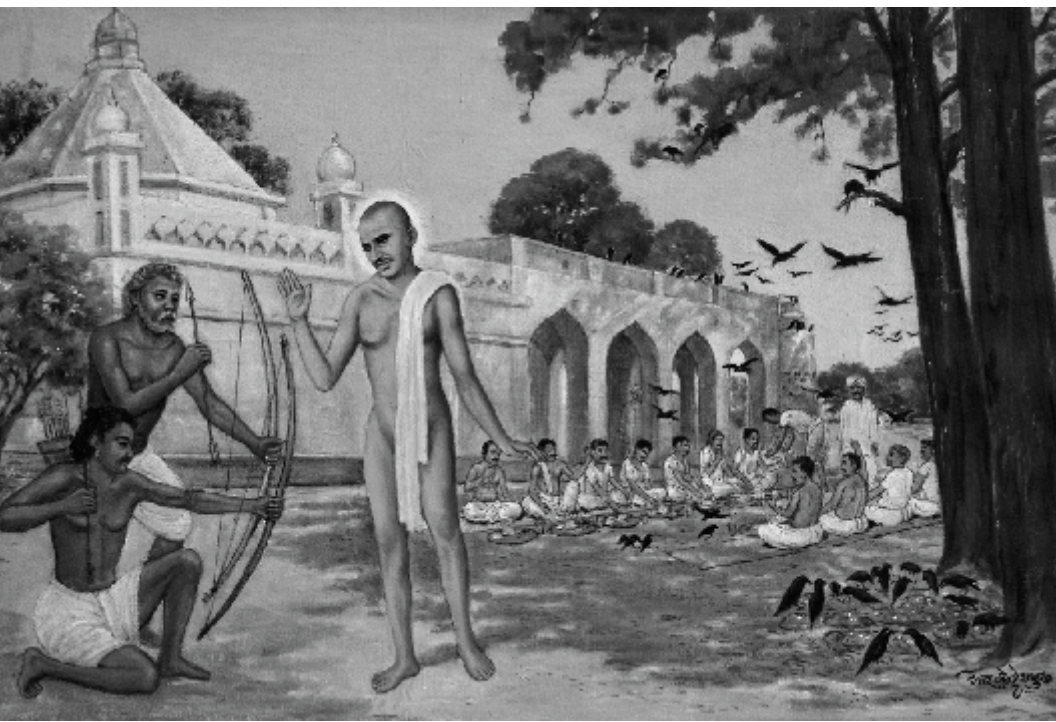
The saint could sense what was going on.
An actor cannot pose as a king for long.
A bitter fruit may look tempting
Hides an astringent taste inside.
Saints are unhappy in such surroundings.
Maharaj left the place without eating anything ... 47

He did not care for Lakshman's property and ornaments.
He was himself renunciation incarnate.
He wanted to test Lakshman's sincerity.
When he detected total dishonesty
He just left the place.
While departing he said,
'You are too selfish trying to own everything.
Now be prepared for the further happenings ... 48

I came to bless you and double your assets
But it appears you are not destined to get the effect.'
This forecast came true and in about six months
Lakshman lost his wealth and all his worth.
The saint wanted to teach that one should not be vicious,
Insincere and dishonest in fulfilling promises.
The saint was a jewel. Pebbles didn't beautify him.
How can tin trinkets decorate golden self ... 49

Let the devotees benefit
By reading this treatise.

Chapter Eleven



Please don't shoot them. I will tell them.
Thus saying the Saint turned to the crows,
'Don't come to this place from tomorrow.
As this may lower the prestige of Bhaskar's soul.
Eat today whatever you like to your hearts' content.
And don't come back from next day again.'
Devotees were amazed to hear this exchange.
Nonbeliever thought of it as sheer nonsense

Chapter 11

Shree Ganeshay namah

O God Shiva! Sustainer of the cosmos, Pashupati
Cosort of Goddess Bhavani, Dakshinamurti
You are the God with as many facets
As there are people in the creation.
You are formless and omnipresent
And the manifestation of an illusion.
It is impossible to distinguish your nature.
So you appear in countless figures ... 1

Devotees call you as per their preference,
But it makes no difference.
Shaiva's call you Shiva, Vedanti's call you Brahma.
Ramanuja's Sitapati And Vaishanava's Lakshmiapati.
Various methods of worship bestowed you these names.
But everywhere you remain the same.
You are Vishveshwar in Somanath, Kedar in Himalaya
Mahankal on the bank of river Kshipra ... 2

Naganath, Vaijanath, at Verul Ghrishneshwar
And Tryambak on the bank of the Godavari river.
You are Bhimashankar, Mallikarjuna and Rameshwar.
You are Shankar at Gokarna, Mahadeo at Shinganapur.
I bow down to all your forms, O benevolent God.
Please liberate me from the tough elements of nature.
O, consort of Girija you made Kubera wealthy.
Then why this hesitation for me? ... 3

Next year on Das Navami day
The saint came to Balapur once more.
Balkrishna and Sukhlal, the devotees
Were waiting for him there.
Shree Maharaj was accompanied
By Bhaskar, Balabhau, Pitambar,
Ganu, Jagadeo and Dindokar.
The celebration was enthusiastic ... 4

But fate had something in store for Bhaskar
A rabid dog bit him at the gathering.
People were afraid he would soon turn rabid
All possible treatment was given to him.
They all suggested that Bhaskar
Should go and see a doctor.
Bhaskar was disinclined and replied
That the saint would save him from disaster ... 5

When Bhaskar was brought to the saint
Balabhau narrated the entire incident.
Maharaj heard it all, smiled and said,
'None can escape the effect of murder, enmity and debts.
Bhaskar removed the evil from Sukhlal's cow.
That evil has entered in the dog now.
He requested me to remove the wickedness
So that he gets the milk for himself ... 6

You enjoyed the milk. Now you feel sorry for the bite.
Do you want me to save you? Come on. Be frank with it.
This dog bite is an excuse to end your life.
It is over and you have to leave this mundane strife.
I can save you if you want to live longer.
But that will be a sort of give and take affair.
In this illusive world this is the way they score.
Be quick. Tell me. You won't get this chance again ... 7

Said Bhaskar, 'I am your child.
Do whatever you think best for me
Saint Tukaram in one of his abhangs

Said that a mother knows everything
As to what is best for her offspring.
Therefore it is not for me to request.
Please do whatever you think best.
You are an ocean of knowledge.' ... 8

Truth always satisfies people who are candid.
Maharaj was happy as Bhaskar's reply was forthright.
Some devotees requested the saint to save Bhaskar
As he was one of the most dedicated disciples of the seer.
The saint said, 'O you gentlemen! Curb your ignorance.
Know that life and death are delusions.
No one is born and no one dies
Knowledge is essential to understand this illusion ... 9

One cannot be released from this life
Without suffering from the deeds of the past.
Deeds of the past bring you to the present
And again of the present take you to the next
And so on and on the cycle goes on.
How long should one continue in this procession?
Bhaskar has exhausted the effects of the past life
And is now due for liberation ... 10

Do not come in his way. Let him go.
It is difficult to get a devotee like him, I know.
This dog was his enemy in his previous birth.
It has bitten him in Balapur in this term.
The revenge is over but if this leaves bitterness
In Bhaskar, it will prompt him to retaliate.
This will take him to next birth again.
As of today Bhaskar is cleansed of his past misconduct ... 11

He is left with two months of his life.
I can save him from the effects of the dog bite.
If it won't be this way, he will have to come once more
And live on this earth for two more months further.'
Some people did not grasp the values in the statement.
But Balabhau could comprehend it and was happy.

He praised Bhaskar for his devotion to the saint
Thereby freeing him from cycle of life and death ... 12

When they returned to Shegaon monastery
Bhaskar told others the story
Of the happenings at Balapur on Das Navami.
With folded hands he appealed to the gentry,
'Shegaon is fortunate to have Shree Gajanan saint.
Let us honor his being here with a monument.
We are aware that he doesn't need one
But it is essential for the next generation ... 13

They have memorials for Saint Dnyaneshwar at Alandi,
At Sajjangad for Shree Ramadas Swami,
For Saint Tukaram at Dehu Nagari.
We should have one here for Saint Shree Gajanan.'
Though he said so he was not sure of their intentions.
Once during the absence of the Saint
He called many dignitaries to attend
A meeting to discuss and recommend ... 14

The attendees included Bankatlal, Hari Patil, Maruti,
Chandrabhan,
And among others Shripatrao Vavikar, Tarachand Sawkar.
Bhaskar said, 'I am here for two months only, not long.
I wish a grand memorial for the Saint be built at Shegaon.
I will leave this place with great happiness.
Please remember that service to a saint never goes waste.
He alone is the one who will fulfill your desires.
The memorial should draw all praise and prayer.' ... 15

Bhaskar was happy at their promise to fulfill his desire.
Day by day he felt elated
Like a child excited at the thought of a coming festival.
On the thirteenth day of waning moon in Magh
Said Saint Gajanan Maharaj,
'Bhaskar, For Mahashivaratri let us go to Trimbakeshwar.
As there on the banks of Godavari river
Resides Shiva, the Bhavaniwar ... 16

The Jyotirling there is pleasing to the eyes.
A glimpse of that destroys all wrongdoings.
Come, don't delay. Let us go and take a dip salutary
In the holy waters of the sacred Godavari.
On the Brahmagiri hill near the river
Grow medicinal herbs which are very rare.
Saint Gahininath who resides there
Knows them and the diseases they cure ... 17

We can get for you some medicament
For your anti-rabies treatment.
Bhaskar remarked, 'I don't need any medicines.
I am content with your blessings.
I was freed of the dog- bite poison at Balapur
And have to live for just another two months.
Therefore please let me stay here.
As for me you are Trimbakeshwar ... 18

Your feet are Godavari to me where I bathe.
I don't need any holy place to visit at this stage.'
'Though this may be true.' Said the Saint graciously,
'One shouldn't ignore the importance of a holy place.
Come, let us get ready to go now.
Take with us Pitambar and Balabhau.
They were all there at Trimbakeshwar
On Shivaratri day, festival of the year ... 19

They took bath at the Kushavart reservoir.
Had a glimpse of God Trimbakeshwar.
They offered worship to Gautami at Gangadwar,
Ma Nilambika, Nivrutti and Gahininath.
From there they all came to Nashik to meet Gopaldas
Who was sitting at the gate of the temple of Kalaram.
This was in Panchavati.
In front of it was a pipal tree ... 20

Maharaj sat on the platform below with his disciples.
Gopaldas was happy and said to his people,

'My brother has come from Vidarbha. He is Gajanan.
 Go, pay respects to him and offer him coconut and sugar.
 Put this garland around his neck.
 Though we are two different bodies we two are the same.'
 The disciples offered sweets and garlanded the Saint
 Who asked Bhaskar to give sweets to all those present ...
 21

'Our work at Panchavati is now over.
 Let us go to Nashik to meet Dhumal, the lawyer.'
 Many people came to have a glimpse of the saint.
 A few days later back to Shegaon they went.
 Zyamsingh of Adgaon Visited Shegaon
 With a request to Maharaj to visit Adgaon.
 Maharaj was not well- inclined to go.
 Zyamsingh went back and forth to and fro ... 22

He came back on Ram Navami
 After the worship he said, 'Come with me,
 At Adgaon we will observe Hanuman Jayanti.'
 Strange things happened during the tour
 One afternoon saint pushed Bhaskar to the floor.
 He sat on his chest and pounded him.
 People were aghast but no one dared say anything
 Until Balabhau intervened with a pleading ... 23

With all humility and a voice mellow
 He said, 'Please let him go.
 He is being scorched by the hot earth below.'
 Bhaskar said, 'Don't object to him.
 Let him do what he likes.
 This is not thrashing but just a game.
 Only those who understand the saint well
 Will be able to comprehend the same ... 24

When they returned to their residence
 Shree Gajanan Maharaj said to Balabhau,
 'Only two days are left for Bhaskar now.
 On this Panchami day he has to go.

The reason I thrashed him today
Is that he made me do the same to you one day.
To dispel the effect of that action
I beat him. There was no other intention ... 25

The festival culminated with distribution of Prasad.
When the day of Panchami dawned,
Shree Gajanan Maharaj said to Bhaskar'
'This is your date of departure. Thus now get prepared.'
To the people he asked to recite 'Vitthal Narayan'.
'This brother of you is now going to Vaikunth.
Worship him offering bukka and flowers ... 26

Bhaskar sat facing East in a Padmasan pose,
Concentrating his eyes on the tip of his nose
Surrendering his thoughts to the Almighty.
Worship was performed by the devotees.
The saint was looking happily at them
Chanting of prayers continued till then.
At mid day the saint said aloud 'Har Har'
To Vaikunth, with these words, went Bhaskar ... 27

Only those who are blessed by the saints
Go straight to Vaikunth from this place.
Devotees asked the Saint
About Bhaskar's final place of rest.
He decided on a site near Dwarkeshwar
Where they brought his remains in a palanquin
Decorated with banana leaves and flowers.
On route the devotees were singing prayers ... 28

When they reached the temple of Dwarakeshwar
All memorial services were performed for Bhaskar.
People present grieved at his departure,
Saying that he was the greatest devotee of the Saint ever.
From next day they started feeding of the poor.
Dwarkeshwar was one mile North of Adgaon
Situated between Akoli and Adgaon
Among trees of neem, pipal, audumber and mandar ... 29

Food offering called 'Sant Bhandara' for the people
Continued for ten days at Dwarakeshwar temple.
They all squatted in the shade of tall tamarind trees
To have their share of food offerings.
Crows in the woods troubled them to a great extent
By crowing, picking morsels and dropping waste.
Annoyed by the nuisance they called the Bhils
To shoot at them while the people ate ... 30

When he saw this the Maharaj said, 'Mind you,
Don't shoot the crows. They are here too
To share the offering with people like you.
Bhaskar's soul is in heaven. He is not in the queue.
Normally souls of the dead hover in the sky for ten days.
On the eleventh a ball of rice is offered to the crows.
When crows touch it to heaven the soul goes.
For Bhaskar this process was not required, of course ... 31

That's why the crows were angry
Bhaskar's soul had reached heaven already.
He had attained detachment while on this planet
And thus needed no such offerings for him to attain
liberation.
Such things are required for those entangled in desires
And are not favored for direct ascent to the heavenly sphere.
Crows want to convey by showing their rage
That they be given their share as in other cases ... 32

Please don't shoot. I will handle them.'
Thus saying the Saint turned to the crows,
'Don't come to this place from tomorrow.
As this may lower the prestige of Bhaskar's soul.
Eat today whatever you like to your hearts' content.
And don't come back from tomorrow ever again.'
Devotees were amazed to hear this exchange.
Nonbelievers thought of it as sheer nonsense ... 33

'How can birds obey orders of human beings?
They asked each other that evening.

Next day deliberately they went to the place
To gauge the effect of what the saint had said.
Not a single crow was spotted at the scene.
It was a great surprise to the skeptic beings.
They surrendered to Maharaj then and there.
No crows visited the place for next twelve years. ... 34

The Saint returned to Shegaon after fourteen days
With the remaining disciples in his entourage.
Since it was a time of drought
Wells were being dug all across.
At one site it went well until ten feet downward.
They struck a black rock which stopped the work.
Four holes were made in the rock for dynamite
And fastening ends of ropes inside ... 35

Gun powder was packed in those openings
With proper placements of ends of the strings.
Through them were passed small burning pipes
To slide down and ignite the stuffed dynamite.
Somehow the pipes got stuck in knots in between.
They did not slide down further.
Water was about to soak in the gun powder
Making it ineffective to explode under. 36

Someone was required to go and press
The pipes down to save the technical snug.
No one was ready to take such a risk.
The contractor asked Ganu Javar to go down quick.
His utter poverty made him obey the authority.
It is only a sheep which is killed before a Deity.
Ganu had great faith in Shree Gajanan.
Remembering the Saint in his heart he went down ... 37

He pulled the obstructed pipe which slid down
And touched the gun powder
Before he could pull another.
At the first explosion Ganu was trapped in the well.

He prayed to the Saint to save him from this hell.
The entire well got filled with smoke.
Ganu caught hold of a rock below
Behind which there was a cavern to hide ... 38

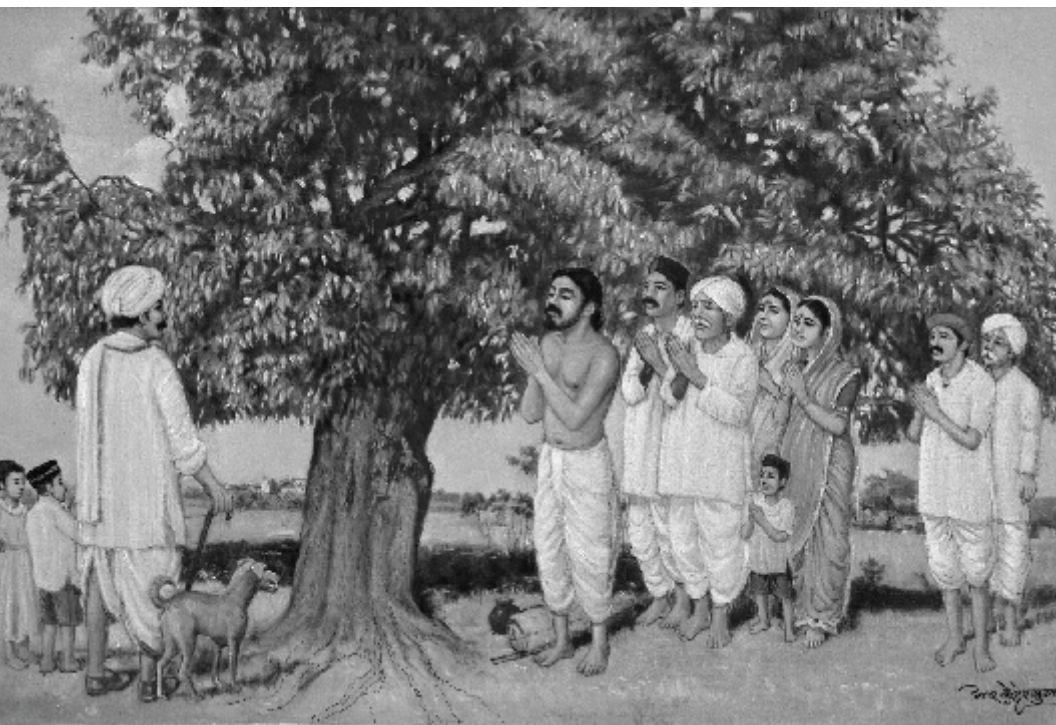
Remaining three dynamites exploded one after other
Throwing stones out scattered everywhere.
People thought that Ganu was shattered to pieces.
The contractor asked that his body be searched in debris.
Ganu heard him and shouted from inside the well,
'O mistry, Ganu is not dead. He is alive and well.
By the grace of Shree Gajanan he is safe in a cave.
A big rock is obstructing his safe escape.' ... 39

People rejoiced hearing Ganu's voice
And went down to clear the space
Ganu came up and bowed down
To Maharaj for his kind grace.
Maharaj smiled and said,
'The big stone which obstructed you, saved you
Don't repeat such feats again.
Don't touch an ignited pipe. You're here by God's grace ... 40

When people came to see Ganu he said,
'O Maharaj, It was you holding my hand
When the dynamite exploded,
Putting me safe in the cavern
And saving me from the jaws of death.
I am here by your kind grace.'
Such was the greatness of Maharaj
Which I have no words to express ... 41

Let this treatise
Bring happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Twelve



Thus saying he asked the gathering to chant a song
In the name of Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon.
So the chorus started singing 'Jai Gajanan, Jai Gajanan.'
This went on for some time and Lo! There was a miracle.
Tender leaves started shooting out of the tree.
In a few moments it was all green.
People looked up in wonder.
Some thought it could be a dream

Chapter 12

Shree Ganeshay namah

O guardian of the gathering, Mayureshwar,
Come be with me and help me to complete this thesis .
You deliver knowledge and intelligence
And you alone fulfill the desires of devotees.
You remove all obstacles. The scriptures too narrate so.
O Ekdanta, Lambodar, Parvatisuta,
Bhalachandra, Sindurari
Come relieve me of all my anxieties ... 1

One Bachchulal Agarwal stayed in Akola.
He was a rich and generous person.
He heard of the incident of Ghude of Karanja
Which confounded him with some doubts and suspicion.
As he was thinking about the truth behind it
Maharaj himself came to Akola on a visit.
He reached Bachchulal's residence.
Bachchulal was happy and desired to worship the saint ... 2

When Maharaj gave him consent
Bachchulal made elaborate arrangements
For his bath, anointments and various garments.
A gold chain was put around his neck
And gold rings on all his fingers,
A bracelet of gold was put on his left arm.
And various perfumes on his body were sprinkled.
He was offered sweets of a varied nature ... 3

A golden platter full of Rupees, Coins and Mohors
Was offered as dakshina to the Saint.
It amounted to two thousand Rupees.
He also put a coconut on the plate.
Then with folded hands Bachchulal said,
'Maharaj, I want to construct a Shree Ram temple
As the space in my house is insufficient
To celebrate Ram Navami festival ... 4

Kindly fulfill my desire.'
Saying this he touched the Saint's feet.'
To which Maharaj replied,
'I bless you that God Ramchandra will fulfill your wish
But what have you achieved by decorating me like this?
You have made me look like a bull at 'Pola'.
I am neither that nor a horse at 'Dasara'.
These ornaments are of no use to me ... 5

I shouldn't have a touch of them.
They are all toxic to me.
Don't try to tempt me with all these gimmicks
Or is it Bachchulal that you have done all this
To flaunt your wealth you should offer only those things
That a receiver likes.
I am just a crazy wandering bare bodied ... 6

Let all these things remain with you.
They are fine for a family holder like you.
If at all I want any riches God Vitthal standing on a rock
On the bank of River Bhima will always fulfill my wishes.'
This is all he had to say.
He removed all decorations and threw them away ... 7

The Saint pulled out all ornaments from his person
And threw them away in all directions.
Same was the case with the clothes offered.
He ate a piece of the sweet and then disappeared.
People of Akola who witnessed this event

Were unhappy to see how he left.
Some of them were from Karanja
Feeling sorry for Ghude's miserly Dakshina ... 8

He worshipped Maharaj like Bachchulal
But was insincere in giving Dakshina at all.
The Saint could understand his hypocrisy,
His tall talk and false modesty.
His worship used big words only.
When he said, 'Take these clothes.'
He offered grains of rice actually.
For sweets he offered peanuts similarly ... 9

A worshipper gets what he deserves
Depending on the sincerity he offers
As it happened in Ghude's efforts,
Unlike Bachchulal who was true to his words.
Bachchulal's prosperity never receded.
Those blessed by saints are ever contented.
He searched for Maharaj in Akola city
But could not find him in the vicinity ... 10

A devotee named Pitamber Shimpi stayed at the monastery
With Gajanan Maharaj in Shegaon city.
He was very sincere in service to Maharaj.
His truthful devotion got him fruitful rewards.
Once he was wearing a dhoti all tattered
Looking at that the Saint uttered,
'Your name is Pitambar
But you don't have even a good dhoti to wear ... 11

At least cover your hips which is seen by others.
It's like a woman named Sonubai
With not even tin ornaments on her
Or Gangabai who is dying for water.
Your dhoti is just fit to be a duster.
Wearing it you expose your posterior.
I am giving you now this dupatta to wear
Never remove it even if anyone insists ever ... 12

Pitambar obediently wore the dupatta
But other devotees did not tolerate it.
Selfishness breeds animosity even in brothers.
In this material world that's the way it is.
This is an unpleasant subject
Like opening the lid of a sewer.
Many claimed to be devotees of the Saint
Yet only a few could stand out of the rest ... 13

It is like a sandalwood tree in the forest.
Rare to find in a jungle quest.
People were jealous. Teasing Pitambar
They said he shouldn't use the Saint's wear.
In reply said Pitambar
He was doing it under the Saint's orders.
This created a rift amongst the devotees.
Maharaj called Pitambar aside ... 14

He said 'Pitambar, go away from here
Like a grown up child drifting away from the mother.
My blessings are always with you Pitambar.
Go and serve the under-privileged brothers.'
With tearful eyes he bowed down to the saint,
His lingering eyes looking back again and again,
He left the monastery and reached Kondoli.
With the saint's name on his lips, he sat under a tree ... 15

He sat there all night. Ants started bothering him
And he had to climb up the tree.
There too he faced the same menace
So he went up branch by branch.
Small or big, a safer place to sit but could not get any.
Some cowherds nearby
Were surprised to see him move like that ... 16

They could not understand
His going from branch to branch like a chimpanzee.
The wonder was that he did not fall
Even from the smallest branch at all.

One of them said that disciples of Maharaj
Can perform marvels like that
And thought that Pitambar could one be ... 17

The cowherds went back to the township
And told the people about the happening.
Curious residents of Kondoli
Gathered under the mango tree
To find out who this person was.
On seeing Pitambar
They thought he was an imposter
Trying to prove that he was the Saint's devotee ... 18

There was one Bhaskar Patil
A true disciple who recently died.
Some said disciples of Maharaj
Do not leave Shegaon at all
Because of the sweets they get to eat,
A daily welcome treat.
Some said before forming any opinion
Ask details about him from the person ... 19

They all thought it better to ask the antecedents.
One of them asked him who he was,
What were his credentials and who was his respected guru.
'I am from Shegaon.' said Pitambar,
My name is Pitambar Shimpi disciple of the saint there.
I am in this town respecting his orders.
I sat under that tree when I came here ... 20

Ants started crawling over my body.
I had thus to go up the tree.'
People got upset and thought him to be fake.
They warned him not to fool them in the Saint's name.
They taunted him saying you speak like a queen
Who is seeking a job to make a living ... 21

One Shamrao Deshmukh of the village said,
'You are an imposter. Listen to me well.

Saint Gajanan Maharaj is God himself.
He made mangoes grow on each bough.
It was out of season though.
Well! He made the fruits, can you at least
Create leaves on these worn out branches
Of Baliram Patil's dry mango tree ... 22

Do it or be prepared to face a thrashing.
If you do, we'll respect you.
It is seen that disciples of great saints
Attain the loftiness of the guru himself.
Now don't delay. Make the tree gleam
With glossy lively and emerald green
As they have earlier been.'
For Pitambar the idea was frightening ... 23

He said, 'Please don't push me in to a quandary
Kindly listen to the entire story.
As you are very well aware
Diamonds and pebbles are found together.
I told you the truth about myself.
I am just a pebble amongst the saint's disciples.
Ignore me but I did not lie a bit.
Pebbles do not lower the value of a diamond pit ... 24

In spite of what I do
I cannot hide the name of my Guru'
There upon Shamrao said,
'Don't talk nonsense. A disciple in trouble
Prays for guru's blessings favorable
To rescue him from such a debacle
In spite of the standing of the disciple
Not being of a requisite level.' ... 25

Pitambar was caught between the devil and the deep sea.
He helplessly worried as to what the future would be.
People gathered around the mango tree
Waiting to see how he tackles this situation knotty.
Pitambar folded his hands and prayed to the Saint.

'O Saint, please come to my rescue.
Because of me they are blaming you.
Let the tree sprout foliage and save your greatness ... 26

I am entirely dependent on you.
If I don't get any help now
I may have to face death in the brawl.
You came as Narahari for Bhakta Pralhad.
In case of Janabai, the pillar
On which she was to be killed turned into water.
As Janabai depended on the Omnipresent
Saint! I look to you for help this moment ... 27

There is no difference between God and saint.
Saint is God and God is saint.
I have no special qualities
Except that of being a disciple of your reverence.
Thus now it is your honor which is at stake.
You are the flower, I am the thread.
Flowers make a garland, lending value to the twine.
You are the musk. I am the earth ... 28

I am caught up in this calamity,
Because of your Divinity.
Please don't put me to this test any further.
Come running to me
And get green leaves on the tree to flutter.' ... 29

Thus saying he asked the gathering to chant a song
In the name of Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon.
So the chorus started singing 'Jai Gajanan, Jai Gajanan.'
This went on for some time and Lo! There was a miracle.
Tender leaves started sprouting from the tree.
In a few moments it was all green.
People looked up in wonder.
Some thought it could be a dream ... 30

They pinched each other to ensure that it was not so.
Some others thought that it was a magic show.

But the doubts were removed as fresh sap oozed
When leaves were plucked by those in the shadow.
They were all convinced that leaves came into being
Due to the grace of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
This made them accept the greatness of the visitor,
Pitambar a humble disciple from Shegaon ... 31

They all took him to Kondoli
With a hope that Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Will visit the place to see his disciple
As a cow follows her calf.
Swami Samarth Ramdas sent his disciple to Domgaon
For spiritual upliftment of the people there.
Likewise Pitambar was sent
By Shree Gajanan Maharaj here ... 32

It was a lucky augury for Kondoli.
Speaking of the Mango tree,
It still thrives there.
Yielding more mangoes than any other near.
People respected Pitambar
Who established a monastery there.
A piece of diamond has a value everywhere.
Pitambar breathed his last there ... 33

Once in Shegaon the Saint appeared restless.
The disciples wanted to know the reason for this unrest.
The saint said, 'Krishna Patil who has passed away
Comes back to my mind.
He used to offer me seasoned betel nut.
No one is left of his kind.
His son Ram is young. He may serve me in future.
I don't want to stay here hereafter ... 34

People got anxious at this warning
That the Saint may leave the place soon.
They all went and bowed down to him
To stop him from leaving Shegaon town.
Bankatlal, Tarachand, Maroti and Shripatrao

Amongst others came and touched the feet of Maharaj
Saying, 'Don't go away from our midst.
Please stay in this town wherever you wish.' ... 35

Maharaj said that people of Shegaon are divided.
He did not want to stay with any one of them.
He said that if he were to stay in Shegaon
It would be a place which to no one belongs.
This was an awkward situation.
If he did not want to stay with any one
The only alternative was to approach the government
And get a piece of land for the saint ... 36

How can a government ruled by foreign hands
Have respect for the Saints of our land?
Bankat asked the saint not to put them in difficulty
As no one could give any guarantee
Of the Government allotting property
Just on demand to a religious fraternity
Bankatlal with many others requested the Saint
To avoid the problems hard to circumvent ... 37

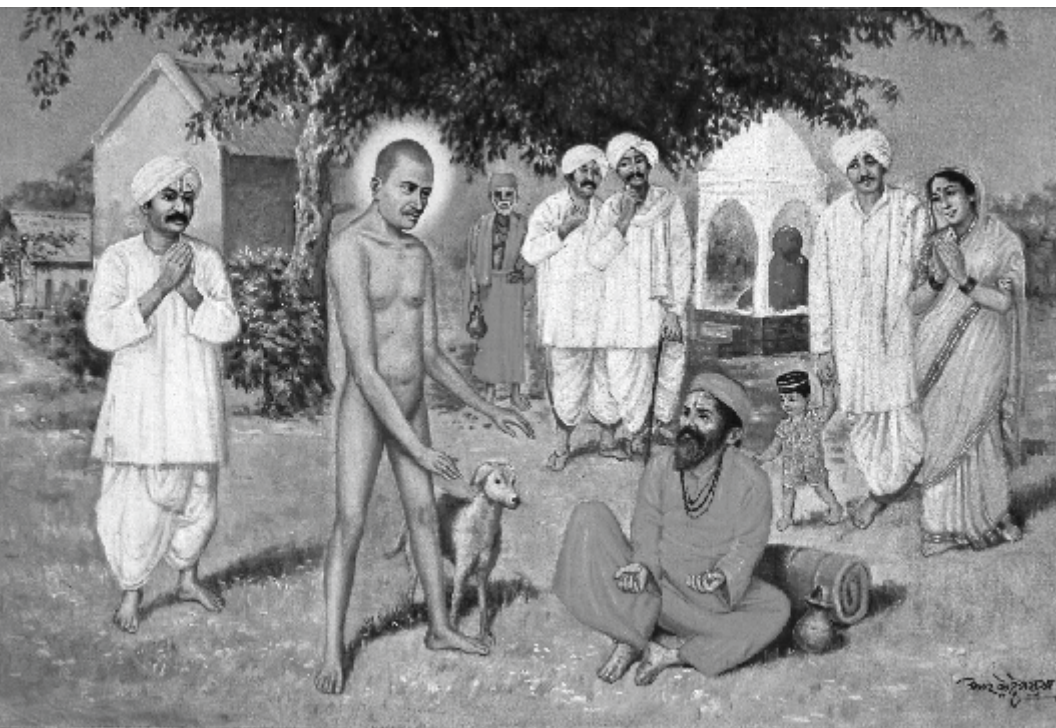
Maharaj said, 'You are all ignorant.
The land belongs to God, the Omnipresent.
Many kings have come and gone.
Pandurang is the God to whom the land belongs.
Kings owned it by tradition.
There is nothing more than that.
Go and ask Hari Patil to assist you in the attempt.
I feel he will positively get the grant ... 38

People came to Hari Patil for consultation.
Then approached the government with an application.
Mr. Kari, Buldana's district collector
Agreed to allot an acre
He said more land would be allotted
If the acre is properly developed.
The decision of the collector is still on record
This was an effect of a 'word' from Maharaj ... 39

Hari and Bankat started the fund collection.
The requested amount matched the estimation.
Those who helped to begin the collection
Will be narrated in the next chapter.
God always helps Saints.
Vithu Patil of Dongargaon, Lakshman of Wadegaon,
Jagu Aaba of Shegaon were the leaders
In forefront to start the construction ... 40

May the reading of this treatise
Bring happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Thirteen



In spite of the warning, Gangabharati
Grabbed a timely opportunity.
He rushed to the Maharaj
To bow down to him as a last resort.
The Maharaj slapped him on his head
And as he got up many slaps on his face.
After this Maharaj kicked him hard
And spat on his body decaying

Chapter 13

Shree Ganeshay namah

O Shree Hari the Saint Supreme,
Ocean of kindness, beloved of Goap and Gopi's.
God Brahma came to steal cows and calves in Gokul,
To have a fitful darshan of you.
You turned yourself into those forms to please Him.
You killed Kaliya, Serpent of the Yamuna river
To free the Gopi's of his menace forever.
Likewise crush my ignorance to rid me of my fears ...1

Bankat, Hari and Lakshman, Vithu and Jagdeo as one,
Went around collecting donations
For the monastery of Shree Gajanan.
While many devotees readily subscribed
Some nonbelievers criticized,
'Why should the saint need donations
When he performs sensations? ... 2

Why should he ask for money from others
When he can get it straight from Kuber's coffers?'
Jagdeo laughed at their mischief and said,
'The money we need is for your sake.
Maharaj doesn't require a temple or a hood
The construction is for your own good.
This universe is his monastery,
Forests are his gardens of pleasant diversity ... 3

This earth is his bed of limitless spread,
All the eight Siddhis are awaiting his summons.
His splendor is entirely beyond conception
How can a candle help the sun in diffusing darkness?
How can a watchman surpass the king's glory?
One pious deed is enough to fulfill your dreams.
Remedies curing ills are futile for soul's esteem ... 4

Diseases threaten the body not the spirit.
Soul is eternal. It has no birth or demise.
You have to accumulate good deeds and blessings
To enjoy and protect your well being.
If you consider your affluence as a body
And bad habits as a malady,
The disease can be removed indeed
By performing pious deeds ... 5

Thus build up piety to your credit,
With no apprehension in your mind.
Sow seeds of good deeds to reap the benefit.
Don't scatter seeds on a rocky surface.
They will never sprout and will go waste.
Bad habits and thoughts are such spots
Seeds sown there will be eaten by roaches and ants ... 6

There is no piety like reverence to saints.
Shree Gajanan today is a jewel amongst them.
A donation to such a cause will multiply your credit.
A seed sown in soil brings forth more yield.
Similar is the effect of good charity.'
The critics were subdued by this advice.
All arguments go haywire
When confronted with facts and figures ... 7

Contributions poured because of influential people.
Ordinary folks cannot contribute such donations.
A compound wall was soon built around the lot.
People of Shegaon gathered to help the cause.
Bullock carts carried material for construction

Saint Gajanan watched them from his residence.
He thought that the work may gather speed
If he shifts to the site of the construction indeed! ... 8

He jumped on a cart carrying sand
The driver stepped down as He was a Mahar.
'Why so?' asked the saint, 'I don't care
Whether you are untouchable or an esquire.'
The Mahar said, 'It is not appropriate
For me to sit next to a saint.
God Hanuman was a devotee of Shree Ram
But never sat next to Him at all ... 9

'So be it. I don't object.' Said the saint,
'O bullock, just take the cart on the right trail.'
The bullock went as instructed
And arrived at the designated spot
The cart man was walking ahead.
The saint alighted from the cart
And sat in the center of the plot
Where stands his monument today ... 10

This spot falls in between two survey numbers
Forty three and forty five of the lot.
Construction with this as a center
Would mean encroachment on an outer piece of land.
The trust was granted only an acre.
But with such a situation violation would occur.
They did it as the collector had agreed
To allot more after gauging how the work proceeds ... 11

Some mischievous elements
Reported this to the Government.
Devotees were disturbed and informed the saint
That an officer Joshi would enquire in to the incident.
Shree Gajanan Maharaj laughed and said
That the fine imposed would be exempted.
It came to be true. Joshi inspected the matter
And waived the charges in his order ... 12

Hari Patil was especially happy
'Words of Maharaj don't go in vain
Last time in a similar case
The Saint had said - don't be afraid,
And it did come true that I was saved.
Similar incident has recurred today.
His kind words won't go astray.
They can never remain empty.' ... 13

Devotees from far and near gathered together
At the saint's feet and offered prayers.
Some incidents at the new monastery
Soon became note worthy.
A Gosavi named Gangabharati
Came from a village Savadad in Mehekar taluka.
He suffered from leprosy
And had scars all over his body ... 14

The disease had worn out his finger tips
His skin was red and suffered from an itch.
He was totally tired of his sufferings.
He heard of the saint and came for his blessings.
Devotees did not allow him near the Saint.
The disease is contagious as they said.
They advised him to stay away.
Take a glimpse of the saint and get out of the way ... 15

In spite of the warning, Gangabharati
Grabbed a timely opportunity.
He rushed to Maharaj
To bow down to him as a last resort.
Maharaj slapped him on his head
And as he got up he got many slaps on his face.
After this Maharaj kicked him hard
And spat on his body diseased ... 16

Gangabharati took it as a blessing
And spread the spittle as ointment dressing.
Someone standing by criticized him

And asked him to clean himself
With a suggestion not to indulge
In such blind faith again.
He advised Gangabharati to take medicines
Instead of coming to a crazy man like this ... 17

Gangabharati smiled and said,
'Nothing is impure with the saints.
Musk will never release a reeking stench.
What appeared to you as saliva
Is an ointment for my skin.
It smells like musk.
If you so like, come touch and smell it.
It appeared to you thus as you don't need it ... 18

You don't understand the greatness of Maharaj.
To prove what I say, let us go to the place
Where he takes his daily bath.
There from I take mud and anoint myself
And watch what happens next.'
For Gangabharati it turned into an ointment.
It remained as mud in the critic's extent
Making him realize the greatness of the saint ... 19

No one in the congregation
Allowed Gangabharati to sit near Gajanan.
He had a melodious voice.
He sang devotional songs of his choice.
This continued for a fortnight
And then a miracle came to sight.
The rash on skin had vanished.
Earlobes returned to normal size ... 20

Cracks on the feet were all gone.
Stench of the person was a thing of the past.
He went on singing devotional songs
Which pleased the audience all day long.
Anusuya, his wife and son Santosh
Came to Shegaon to take him home.

By the grace of the saint you are cured they said
With his permission let us go back to our village ... 21

Gangabharati said, 'Don't pray to me.
I no more belong to you. I swear.
Maharaj has slapped me and brought me to my senses
Saying that I shouldn't degrade the saffron robe I wear.
I have a new vision to understand the strife.
I desire to stay away from family life.
Santosh you better go home with your mother
Obey her and take good care of her ... 22

Be like Pundarika in serving her with love.
That will bring you blessings from God Vasudeo.
If I come back the disease will catch me again
So refrain from forcing me in vain.
Till now I belonged to you I agree
But from now on I will devote myself to the Divinity
To free myself from the cycle of birth and death.
This change in me is due to the Maharaj's grace ... 23

Please don't tempt me anymore.'
Saying this he sent them back to Savadad
And stayed on in Shegaon since then
Singing daily evening prayers
Sitting before Maharaj and the followers.
This was an enchantment for everyone.
He was completely cured of the disease.
And then went to Malkapur as the Saint wished ... 24

Once in the month of Paush
Zyamsingh came to Shegaon
And requested the saint to visit his village Mundagaon.
He reminded the saint of the promise made
To visit his village.
Accordingly he had come to take him home.
Maharaj went with him where a big crowd had gathered
To greet him on the village outskirts ... 25

Zyamsingh arranged a grand feast
To celebrate the saint's visit
Mundgaon became the second Paithan
Where Eknath was treated with such a great aplomb.
In the presence of Shree Gajanan
Many visiting parties arranged bhajans
Cooks got busy in making Prasad
For the devotees of Maharaj ... 26

When the preparations were half way through
Maharaj halted the process though
Saying, 'Zyamsingh, Today is a void day
The fourteenth day of the waxing moon.
Better arrange the feeding tomorrow
On the festival of full moon.'
Zyamsingh said that the food was all set
And devotees had gathered to participate in feast.' ... 27

Maharaj said, 'What you say
Is correct in your own way
But this is not an appropriate day
Acceptable to God. Please obey.
The food will go waste as I see
That's what you don't want it to be.
You wish the events go as per your desire
But it doesn't seem to be possible here ... 28

Even then people squatted down for food.
Suddenly the sky changed its mood.
Clouds gathered and poured rain.
Then a thunder storm lashed again.
Wind and lightening uprooted many trees
Water went running as in streams.
It came in to the plates served for the day
And all the food was swept away ... 29

Zyamsingh approached the saint and said,
'The devotees are all disappointed
By these untimely rains.

I hope this does not recur tomorrow.
This is not our rainy season we all know.
It appears the storm lashed this region
Only to spoil the food preparation.
Our crops may be destroyed by such precipitation ... 30

People will taunt me by asking,
'Is this a reward your piety brings?'
The saint said it won't happen the next day
He just looked up at the clouds and they cleared.
They all vanished and the sky was clear.
Sun brightened up the entire atmosphere.
Such was the supremacy of the saint's stare.
Next day the devotees enjoyed the fare ... 31

The tradition of feeding people on this day
Continues at Mundgaon even today.
Zyamsingh surrendered all his estate
At the feet of the revered saint.
Many residents of Mundgaon village
Became disciples of Gajanan the Saint.
Pundalik Bhokre was one amongst the people.
A sturdy young man of principle ... 32

He was the only son of Ukirda the farmer.
The name Ukirda may sound peculiar.
Such names are given to children to ensure their survival
As Pentayya in Telangana
And Kerpunja in Maharashtra elsewhere.
Pundalik visited Shegaon on eleventh day of the waning
moon
Like devotees visiting Pandharpur Alandi and Dehu ... 33

Once, an epidemic of plague spread over Berar.
People fled their houses and went to live on the fields afar.
The symptoms of the disease are that the patient shivers
And then develops a very high temperature.
His eyes become red in color,
Followed by a gland in the joint anywhere.

The patient then loses his cognizance
And finally succumbs to the infection ... 34

This was never a disease of our land
It prevailed over the European continent
And travelled to India on a weird journey
To soon infect our beloved country.
People abandoned their houses
And resided on fields to protect themselves.
This killer disease invaded Mundgaon
When Pundalik was to visit Shegaon ... 35

When he left for Shegaon with his father
He was feeling feverish with a shiver.
After going ten miles on the road
He could not walk any more.
A gland appeared in his armpit.
He couldn't walk a step more on the street.
His father was very much concerned
And asked his son about his condition ... 36

Pundalik explained to him the state of affairs
His weakness, gland in the armpit and high fever.
Folding his hands he prayed to the saint,
'O Gajanan, please see that my routine visit
On the scheduled day is not disturbed a bit.
Let me reach and touch your feet today.
Then I don't care if Death takes me away.
Please protect me till I reach you all the way ... 37

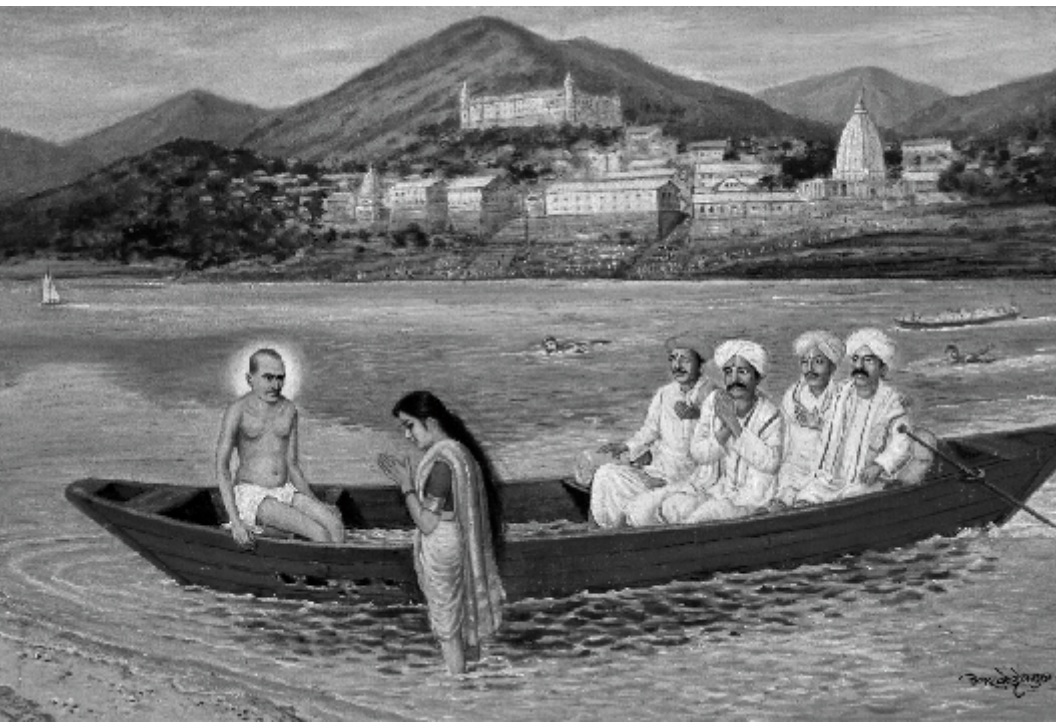
Visits to shrines and holy places
Are possible only if the traveler is in good health.
Looking at Pundalik's sick state
His father felt sorry immensely.
He prayed to God to save his only son
And offered a bullock cart to reach Shegaon soon.
Pundalik replied, 'No. I must go on foot only.
I will make it walking slowly ... 38

He said, 'If I die take my body to Shegaon.
Don't worry about me at all.'
He walked the distance in great pain
And reached the feet of the saint.
And in front of him he fell prostrate.
Looking at Pundalik the saint pressed
His own armpit with his hand and said,
'Pundalik your malady is over. Don't now fret' ... 39

When Maharaj said this,
The gland in Pundalik's armpit suddenly vanished.
The feeling of weakness also disappeared
When Maharaj ate morsels of food sent by his mother.
Pundalik started feeling better.
This was the reward for his devotion.
A great example for non believers.
Absolute devotion brings in desired results ... 40

Pundalik returned to Mundgaon after this visit.
Reading about him will avert all your perils.
This is a real biography and not a concoction.
Everything narrated is what actually happened.
There is no reason for anyone
To doubt the blessings of Gajanan.
May this treatise about the saint
Bring the readers all happiness ... 41

Chapter Fourteen



'O kind lady,' they said, 'tell us who you are.

You have saved us from disaster bizarre.

Now change your clothes, they are wet.

For you here we have a dry set.

Narmada said, 'I am daughter of Omkar the fisherman.

My name is Narmada. For wet clothes I don't care.

I will always remain wet

My form is water. I like it best.'

Chapter 14

Shree Ganeshay namah

Shree Ram, Son of Kausalya
Crown of the Raghu dynasty,
Seetapati, have compassion on me.
I am just a child
You liberated Tratika, also rescued Ahalya
Trapped as stone
And made Shabari happy by visiting her home ... 1

Son of Dashrath, you renounced the crown
To protect your devotees from being mowed down.
Monkeys got strength from your blessings
To assist you in your righteous battle.
O killer of Ravan the demon
Your name made stones float in the ocean.
You installed on the throne devotee Bibhishan.
Those who submit to you get rid of all tribulations ...2

Please remember to protect this writer.
How can a child escape away from the mother?
Your divinity encompasses all the three-
Father, Mother and Guru
You are Kalpataru,
the tree fulfilling all desires.
You are the Almighty so protect me in this strife
And guide me through this ocean of life ... 3

A Brahmin named Bandutatya lived in Mehekar
He was a pious man of generous nature.
In this business called existence
There are ups and downs every instance.
Even then one trades with persistence
And gets completely entangled in affection ... 4

Bandutatya hosted many a guest
And looked personally to their comforts
This went on and on until all his money was gone.
He borrowed some from money lenders
By mortgaging his house and gardens.
With his debts towering tall
He felt ashamed and avoided all ... 5

He even sold his utensils
Until he was left with nothing.
Even as he suffered penury
The creditors chased him for money.
He couldn't afford even two square meals.
His wife and offsprings insulted him a great deal.
Because of such a poor credit rating
No one would anymore lend him money ... 6

He became frustrated with his life
And started thinking of committing suicide.
No one respects penniless men.
Sweet home turns into a sorrowful den.
This is the way of this world insane.
Bandutatya thought of jumping in a well
But if someone saw and pulled him out,
He thought he may be charged for attempted suicide ...7

So he decided to go to Himalayan heights
To kill himself and avoid charge of suicide.
He left with a loin cloth and ash smeared all over his body
To hide his identity.
People of high society are afraid of public condemnation.
Bandu Tatyta said in his mind, ... 8

'O God why are you so much displeased with me?
I lived a life of full faith in thee.
Scriptures say that even a beggar becomes wealthy
With your grace O Almighty.
My present experience is something else.
It makes me think of the poets as insane
Who have described you as full of grace
And benefactor of the oppressed ... 9

O Divinity, I owe this life to thee.
If I die the blame will be all on you, Almighty.
Please save yourself from this indignity.'
Saying thus Bandutatya went
To the railway counter to purchase a ticket.
A Brahmin approached him with a suggestion,
'Don't buy a ticket to Haridwar station ... 10

First go and bow down to one,
A saint called Shree Gajanan.
Before you proceed to Haridwar
Go and meet him at Shegaon.
Don't take such hasty steps
Because of momentary frustration.
Know that a glimpse of the Saint
Will positively bring you a solution.' ... 11

Bandutatya was confused
Fearing he would be recognized.
He was shy of asking the person's name and identity
Nor did he know this personality.
However he decided to go to Shegaon
And pay respects to Gajanan Maharaj.
He went and bowed down to the saint
Where upon the saint laughed and said, ... 12

'Why do you go to Himalaya to end your life?
No one should kill himself nor lose hope.
None should stop trying to get desired things.
If you commit suicide due to problems in life

You will be born again to undergo sufferings
Avoided by you in this span of living.
So don't rush to Himalaya to drown in the Ganges.
Instead go home immediately to end your stress ... 13

Have you recognized the Brahmin
Who met you at the railway station?
Go back and don't stay a moment further.
There is a shrine of God Mhasoba in your garden.
Go there alone at midnight.
And dig three feet deep under the acacia tree.
The tree is to the east of the Deity.
There you will find money in plenty ... 14

Square off your creditors and keep the rest for yourself.
Don't leave your wife and children.
Forget this false idea of renunciation.'
Hearing this Bandu returned to Kherda, his town.
At midnight he went on his own
The acacia tree as advised
He found a copper pot covered with a lid ... 15

When he opened the lid
He found four hundred gold coins in it.
He lifted it and danced again and again
Chanting Jai Gajanan! Jai Gajanan!
He paid off the creditors
And repaid the mortgage on his house
By the grace of Shree Gajanan he set right his affairs
And was very happy once again ... 16

It was like nectar to a patient on death bed
Or a life saving boat to a drowning mate.
Bandutatya was in a similar state.
All adversity was erased from his fate.
He came to Shegaon and spent on charity.
He bowed down to the saint, who said with authority,
'Why do you bow down to me?
Why not to God who got you all this? ... 17

Now wake up and be clever.
Be judicious in spending money hereafter.
It is better not to be over liberal.
People come to you in your good days
But God is with you always.
Pray to him. He will never neglect you.'
Hearing this Bandutatya bowed down to the saint
And returned to his village ... 18

New Moon on a Monday
Called Somavati Amavasya, is an auspicious day.
Much has been said about this in the holy texts.
Bathing in the river Narmada brings devotees all bliss.
It brings good luck and affluence
Everyone knows of this influence.
People of Shegaon were too aware
And planned a visit to the Narmada river ... 19

Among them were Martand Patil, Bankatlal,
Maruti Chandrabhan and Bajaranglal.
They all decided to go to Omkareshwar.
They thought if Maharaj comes it would be better.
They approached him and requested him for his company
Saying that his presence would avert any calamity.
They pleaded with Maharaj to concede to their request.
Where upon the Maharaj said, ... 20

'Holy Narmada is always with me here.
There is no need to go to Onkareshwar.
I will have my Narmada bath here in Shegaon.
You may all proceed to the river.
A famous king Mandhata had ruled Omkareshwar.
Shree Shankaracharya took his vow of renunciation
Before starting his religious mission there
Of liberating people from mundane affairs ... 21

So you proceed and meet the river,
Don't force me to go there.
I need not undergo such rituals.'

They did not listen to him and bowing down
Pressed their request again and again.
Maharaj said, 'You are hypocrites.
The well water here contains Narmada's might.
If I go there Narmada will feel it a slight ... 22

So in your interest leave me alone.
Please go on your own.
Believe me it is in your own interest.'
To which Maruti and Chandrabhan said
That without him they would abandon the trip.
Maharaj then warned them they should not blame him
If something bad happens
By his accompanying them ... 23

Thus they all came to Omkareshwar.
For Somavati, it was a big gathering there.
Men and women were thronged on the banks of the river.
Some were taking a holy dip,
Some others chanting hymns from the scripts
Some carried flowers to the temple
To offer them to the idol.
Many others were eating sweets ... 24

Groups of religious singers came in scores.
Some offered to God abhishek, a religious shower.
At that pleasant place, Omkareshwar
Maharaj sat in a Padmasan pose by the river.
The four devotees accompanying him
Went to the Temple for the darshan.
On their way back they suggested
That road journey was unsafe as it was congested ... 25

They thought the bullocks of their cart were undependable
And suggested that they go back by a boat on the river.
Maharaj said, 'Do what you like.'
They hired a small boat of choice.
They all boarded the boat in action
On their journey back to Khedighat station.

The boat dashed on a rock on the way
And a plank at the bottom was washed away ... 26

Recognizing the risk the boatmen jumped in to the river,
To save their lives. The pilgrims were scared.
Maharaj sat nonchalantly chanting his favorite hymn.
Others were perturbed, their hearts throbbed with fright.
With folded hands they prayed to Maharaj,
'We are guilty of disobedience from the start.
As a result Goddess Narmada is angry
And is punishing by trying to drown us ... 27

O Saint, hereafter we will obey each word of yours.
As if it is directed by the Vedas revered.
Please save us from this danger
And take us back to Shegaon unhurt.'
By this time half the boat was under water.
While they were engaged in the prayer
Onlookers who gauged the situation said,
'For these five the end is near.' ... 28

'Don't get scared.' Said the saint,
'River Narmada will not harm you in vain.'
Thus saying the saint sang praise
To the River Goddess Narmada which goes like this,
'O sacred Narmada Devi,
Destroyer of all things inauspicious and evil,
Pardon our faults with your benevolence.'
Water receded the boat that very instance ... 29

The hole at the bottom of the boat was sealed
By the hand of Goddess Narmada indeed.
She came dressed as a fisherwoman,
Was wet up to her waist and had curly hair.
When the boat reached the bank
Everyone looked at the broken plank.
It was completely sealed and intact.
They all were surprised at that ... 30

'O kind lady,' they said, 'tell us who you are.
You have saved us from disaster bizarre.
Now change your clothes, they are wet.
For you here we have a dry set.
Narmada said, 'I am daughter of Omkar the fisherman.
My name is Narmada. For wet clothes I don't care.
I will always remain wet
My form is water. I like it best.' ... 31

Saying thus she bowed down to the saint
Disappearing like lightening in a moment.
Looking at that all the four persons were delighted.
They were spellbound to see the Saint's authority
Where Narmada came for the glimpse of the Saint.
Even then Bankat asked Maharaj as to who she was.
'She has already told you her name
The fisherman is this Omkareshwar of fame ... 32

She said her form is water,
She is actually the Narmada River.
Do not harbor any doubts about her.
She helps her devotees in times of danger.
Say 'Jai' to her in her honor.'
Hearing this Bankat and the other three
Prostrated before Maharaj.
And narrated the incident at Shegaon.' ... 33

Once Sadashiv Ranganath Wanawale
Along with his friend came to Shegaon
For the darshan of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He was called Taty and was a disciple
Of Chitrakut's Shree Madhavnath Maharaj,
Who had mastered the art of Yoga
And had a large following at Malwa.
Sadashiv entered the room of the Maharaj ... 34

Maharaj was taking his meals.
When he saw Sadashiv he remembered
Shree Madhavnath Maharaj.

Saints know each other without meeting.
'Bring those disciples of Shree Nath to me.
Their guru just went away after taking meals with me.'
Being children of his brother
He gave them a traditional reception.' ... 35

He gave Sadashiv two leaves of betel for ShreeNath
And asked to say a message without altering the form.
'We had a meal together but you forgot your paan here.'
Say,' we have now brought it to you.'
Wanawale returned with the two leaves of betel.
He narrated to ShreeMadhavnath his conversation in details
And asked him whether he had really gone
For a meal to Shegaon ... 36

Shree Madhavnath said, 'What Shree Gajanan said is true.
His remembering me at the time of meals is our meeting.
We meet each other like that quite frequently.
Do not have any doubt about it.
Remembering each other is our meeting.
Though we have different bodies
Our life breath is the same ... 37

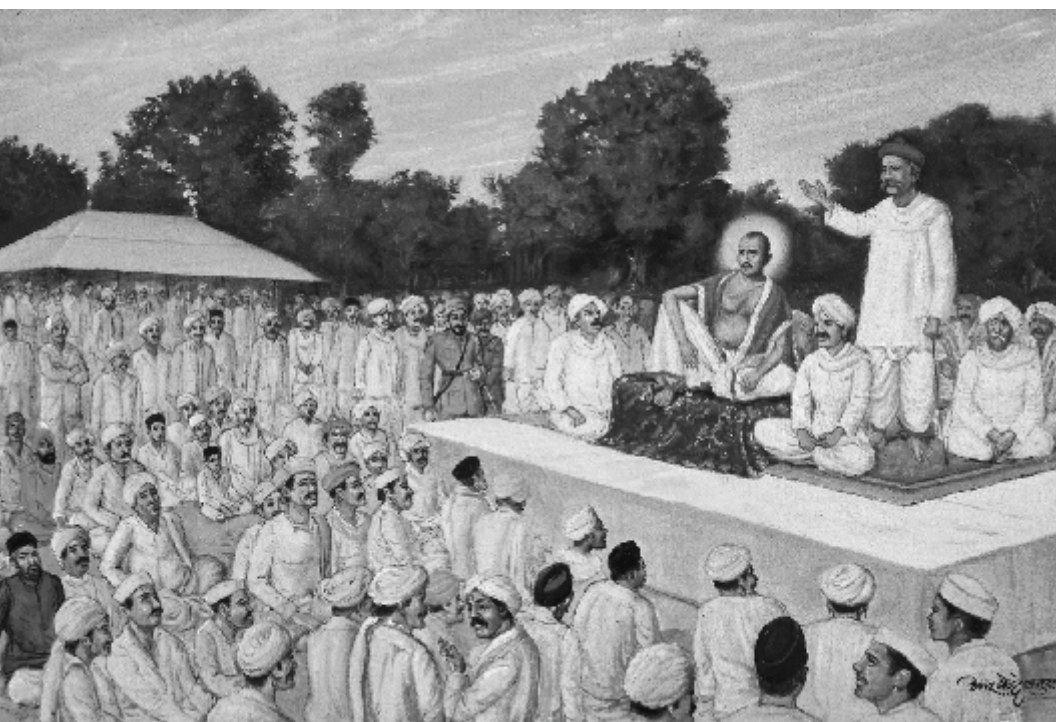
This subject is very deep.
You may require time to understand it.
It is good you brought the pan I forgot there.'
Shree Nath crushed and ate the pan.
He gave a part to Wanawale as prasad.
Shree Dnyaneshwar Maharaj in his 'Changadeo Pasashti'
Has described in detail how saints meet.
One should understand this manner of meeting ... 38

It is interesting that yogis meet each other
From any place though they are not near.
Shaikh Mohammad was at Shri Gonda
And Saint Tukaram at Dehu
When the pendal of kirtan caught fire.
Shaikh extinguished it from a distance
Though Gonda was far from there ... 39

This coincidence of events is narrated by Mahipati
In 'Bhakti Vijay' about saints over all.
Shree Manik Prabhu saved Patil's son
From drowning in a well reaching Holi village.
Only yogis can perform such miracles.
Yoga is more powerful than anything else.
Learn yoga to serve the nation sincerely ... 40

May affectionate devotees with all faith
Listen to this treatise for prosperity, wealth and health.

Chapter Fifteen



Can the present Government give us this training?
Hearing this taunting language
Directed towards the Government
Maharaj got up and smilingly said,
'Don't say that. It may land you
In prison, arrested by the Government.'
Thus saying the saint started
To chant his favorite hymn for some moments

Chapter 15

Shree Ganeshay namah

You obliged Baliraja by accepting an offering from him.
And took away his reign on earth by giving him world
below.

You received a juicy fruit by offering a coconut.
Yet worked as his doorman due to his extreme devotion to
you.

Baliraja became the king of Gods at the end of his epoch.
You learnt the Vedas in a moment
In your reincarnations this one is most pious
As you killed no one at the best ... 1

You made friends and foes happy equally.
That's why they respect you similarly.
In this incarnation you have satisfied Gods,
Pleased the demons
And proved your Godliness to the generations.
O Waman, I again bow down to you.
Bless the writer to see this treatise through ... 2

Bal Gangadhar Tilak,
Kohinoor of Maharashtra had keen foresight
And excelled in political activities.
He was a brave person who worked ceaselessly
For the independence of the country.
He was stubborn like Bhishma
And understood the people's agony ... 3

He took a vow to liberate the land
Which was being ruled by foreign hands
He feared none as his cause was true.
He had command on words like Brihaspati.
His fiery writings panicked the ruling community.
He was a courageous and was addressed
As 'Lokmanya' Tilak with great respect,
A public acknowledgement, not an act of favor ... 4

Once he was to come to Akola by public request
To deliver a speech at the 'Shiv Jayanti' fest.
Many learned celebrities were to be present.
Damle, Kolhatkar, Khaparde at the best.
They reached Akola for the festival.
People of Berar were happy to know
That Tilak was attending the function
Which in fact should have been celebrated here earlier, ... 5

The reason being that Sivaji's mother
Jijabai was born and brought up in Sindkhed near.
When Shivaji was born by the dint of her ability
She brought about Maharashtra and Berar's unity.
Mother from Berar and father from Maharashtra
Were an excellent incomparable couple.
The celebration was a great occasion for Maharashtra
The greatness was further enhanced by Tilak's participation
... 6

Preparation for the festival started a month ahead.
Every one participated happily with great interest.
Officials for the reception committee were elected.
So also volunteers were selected.
To lend dignity to the function
Many people wanted to invite Shree Gajanan.
They said that Shivaji's service to the nation
Was victorious due to Ramdas Swami's benediction ...7

So also Tilak's political uprising
Should have the Saint's blessings.

Some others did not like the idea.
They said the Saint may come naked
And may even strike the Lokmanya.
Others disagreed and still insisted
That the Saint should grace the place.
He may at times act queer but that would not matter ... 8

Some said Tilak was a great leader of the nation
And Saint Gajanan would definitely attend the function.
Most of them supported the suggestion
Of inviting Saint Gajanan to the function.
A group of organizers went to Shegaon
To extend an invitation to Maharaj.
Looking at them the saint said to Khaparde,
'I will come on the appointed day ... 9

It is the birth day celebration of Shivaji.
I will certainly appear on stage and demeanor
In the company of the invited social reformers.
Tilak is the most able leader
Fighting in the cause of our liberation.
There will be no one to compare with him.
I will come to meet him and Anna Patwardhan,
Disciple of Shree Narasinh Saraswati of Alandi' ... 10

Khaparde was glad that Shree Maharaj
Accepted the invitation.
He said to Kolhatkar that Maharaj was the gem of Berar.
He could know everything
That will happen at Akola convention
And acceptance of the invitation
Was a good omen for the function.
They bowed down to Maharaj and went back ... 11

Only eight days were left for the celebration.
People at Akola were waiting for the arrival of Tilak.
The function was to take place in the month of Vaishakh
In Shaka one thousand eight hundred and thirty.
The day was Akshaya Tritiya, an important festival date.

A huge pandal was erected for the guests
Who gathered from far and near
To see Tilak at the fare ... 12

They also knew that the saint was to attend the function.
That was an added attraction.
Shree Gajanan reached in time as promised
And sat on the dais along with
Tilak, Patwardhan, Khaparde,
Damle, Kolhatkar, Bhawe,
Venkatrao Desai and others.
The meeting was called to order ... 13

After the introductory speech
The thundering orator Tilak stood up to speak.
He said, 'This is an auspicious day.
Great Shivaji who fought for the nation
Was born on this day.
Blessings of Ramdas Swami
Helped him to spread his name over all the country.
So will the Saint's at this meeting ... 14

I sincerely hope this meeting is as victorious
As great Shivaji's life and achievements.
The Nation today needs such meetings and functions.
The sun of independence has set all over.
There is nothing but darkness of slavery in the sphere.
Any Nation without independence is life less.
It is necessary to awaken the people
To enhance their love for freedom ... 15

Can the present Government give us this training?'
Hearing this taunting language
Directed towards the Government
Maharaj got up and smilingly said,
'Don't say that. It may land you
In prison, arrested by the Government.'
Thus saying the saint started
To chant his favorite hymn for some moments ... 16

The function concluded with great success.
People appreciated Tilak with cheers.
But the prophecy of Maharaj came true the same year.
Tilak was arrested under section One twenty four.
In the face of the Ruler's strength everyone was helpless.
Renowned lawyers rushed to defend Tilak in legal process.
Other devotees wanted to try the spiritual way
To save him from the punishment ... 17

Dadasaheb Khaparde, a great man from Amaravati
Went to Mumbai to attend the trial in court.
On the way at Akola he said to Kolhatkar,
'You go to Shegaon to seek the saint's favor.
Request him to save Tilak from this calamity.
I would have stopped here
But I have to rush to Mumbai city.
Please go and request for his blessing.' ... 18

Kolhatkar immediately rushed to Shegaon.
The saint was sleeping as he looked on.
He slept for three days. His night was long.
Kolhatkar did not move away from there.
He was Tilak's ardent follower.
Water cannot boil without fire.
Feelings of closeness cannot be reflected without affection.
Maharaj woke up when three days were over ... 19

When he woke up he said,
'All your efforts will be fruitless.
Remember that in spite of the blessings of Ramdas
Shivaji was arrested by the Moguls.
There can be no independence unless people suffer.
Many instances can be quoted on this ... 20

If you remember the story of Kansa
You will understand what I say.
I give you a piece of bread.
Please deliver it to Tilak at the earliest

Though his going far away cannot be avoided.
Kolhatkar got confused when he heard this.
He bowed down to the saint with respect ... 21

He left for Mumbai with the piece of bread.
He narrated everything when he reached there
And gave Tilak the Prasad he had.
Tilak was happy. He commented,
'Gajanan Maharaj is a great saint.
Events may take a turn as he said.
You will not succeed in this case
Government will follow the law as set ... 22

Rules are followed strictly
When self interest is not involved.
Maharaj said I would do some great work.
This I am unable to understand.
Saints are aware of past, present and future.
We are ordinary people.
Let us see what the future holds ... 23

Tilak powdered the bread and ate it
As he had no teeth.
There after he was sentenced to imprisonment
And was sent to Mandalay for confinement.
There he wrote his treatise on Geeta.
This was the great work the Saint talked about.
It has been acclaimed as the best throughout
By saints and scholars all over ... 24

Many a treatise were written on Geeta.
Each one interpreted them at different angles.
They connected the thoughts with various philosophies.
Tilak's work stands aloft in this mingle.
This spread his fame world wide
And made him a writer incomparable.
Getting freedom wouldn't be as immense
As writing this philosophical commentary ... 25

Possession is something material and transient.
Work on philosophy is permanent.
This writing brought Tilak great fame.
He has gained an eminent place
In the list of philosophers of our time.
His work will be read over and over
Till the sun and moon shine in the spheres ... 26

A Chitpavan Brahmin boy from Karvir, Kolhapur
Joined an English medium school.
He passed matriculation examination.
Then he joined college
But failed at the Intermediate attempt.
While reading the news paper 'Kesari'
He read Oyama and Togo's biographies ... 27

Like them he wished to go abroad
And get technical training.
They brought prosperity to Japan.
He wished to do it for his country.
He was helpless as he had no money.
As all of us are aware no one helps the poor.
He went to Bhandara to consult his friend ... 28

His friend was a teacher at Mannro high school
Who heard the proposal with a mind so cool.
Though he liked the idea
He had no funds to spare.
Nothing is possible without money dear.
The poor have to build castles in the air.
Due to the hot summer in Bhandara
They decided to go back to Kolhapur ... 29

Having heard of the great Saint
They got down at Shegaon station.
They kept their luggage at the post Office
And went to the monastery straight.
Bowing down to him they sat there with folded hands.
With his divine power

Maharaj knew the desire of Shridhar.
The saint advised him as under, ... 30

'Don't think of going abroad.
You can get everything here.
Material knowledge is of no avail
Strength of spiritual knowledge prevails,
It can bring satisfaction to you.'
Shridhar experienced a sudden change in his thinking
That reminded him of a Saint at Karvir
Who used to talk like this to him ... 31

Sensing the confusion in his mind
The saint said a few words kind,
'Do not leave this holy land
One gets his birth here only
If he has credit of good deeds in his hands.
Yogashastra is superior to any other science.
One well versed in it will never care
For any other branch of knowledge ... 32

Knowledge of self however is more superior.
Please try to experience that and don't go anywhere.'
Shridhar was very happy with the advice.
He thought that the sun of his thoughts
Had set in the west
And had risen anew in the east with fresh ideas ... 33

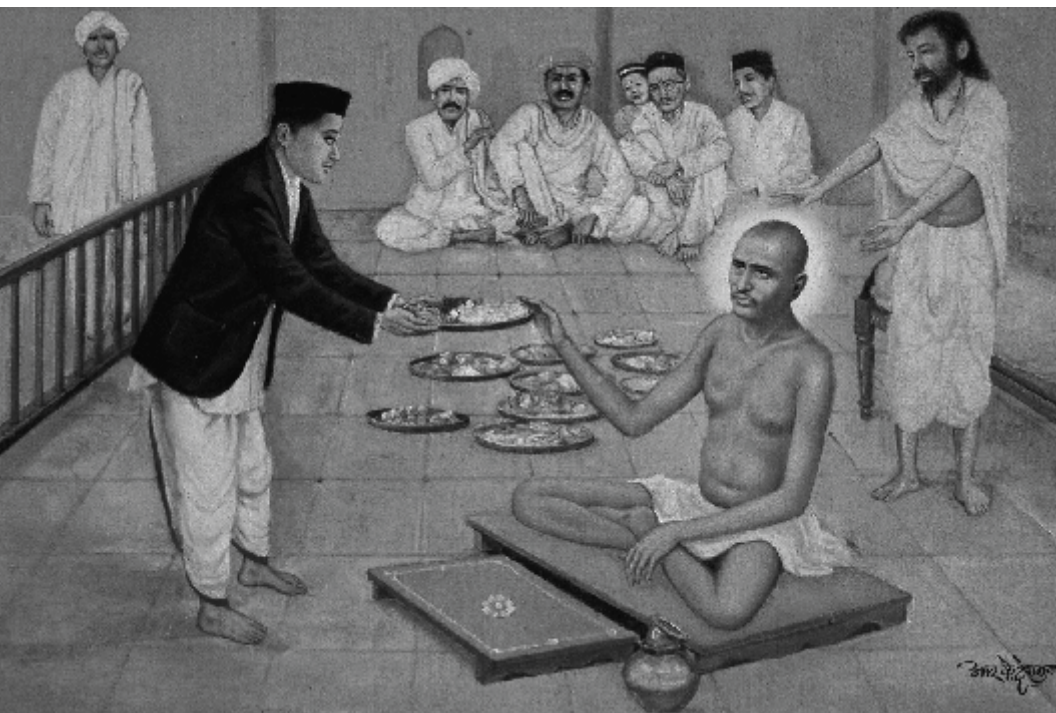
Only saints can bring in such change in thoughts
Because they are aware of all the facts.
The saint said further,
'You will prosper here. Now go back to Kolhapur
Your wife is waiting for you there.'
The prophesy proved true
And Shridhar prospered well ... 34

He passed his B.A. and M.A. examinations
And became Principal of a college at Shivapuri
In the Schindia's regime.

Saints are God's incarnate on this earth.
Those who get their blessings always prosper.
Change in Shridhar's thoughts was due to Gajanan Maharaj.
Such saints are found only in our holy land.
Trees of heaven will not get roots elsewhere ... 35

May this treatise always show the right path
To the devotees.

Chapter Sixteen



The saint did not touch any of those things
And said he would take his food in the evening.
Persons offering food to him may wait
Or go away if they so wished.
Bhau reached Shegaon
And was happy to see the Saint there
Like a child seeing his long lost mother

Chapter 16

Shree Ganeshay namah.

O Parshudhara son of Jamadagni,
Glory to you. Don't ignore me.
Not tolerate the insults inflicted by Sahasrarjun
You killed him and protected the Brahmins.
It now appears that you are neglecting their plight.
Please open your eyes.
It is necessary in the present situation
To save the Aryan culture ... 1

Mysterious are the ways of Gajanan Maharaj.
No one can predict them.
There was a devotee of him at Mundgaon.
Pundalik Bhokre was his name.
He visited Shegaon on a fixed day every month
For the darshan of the saint.
He was devoted to Saint Gajanan
Who was like God to him ... 2

A woman named Bhagabai lived in the same village.
She could not concentrate
On anything as she had a wavering mind.
She was a great hypocrite.
Her past time was to fool people.
Once Pundalik came to her sight.
She said, 'You have wasted your life all through
As you as yet have no Guru ... 3

In spite of your visits to Shegaon
Your Guru is not Gajanan Maharaj.
Tell me whether he has uttered
A sacred hymn in your ear called as a Guru Mantra.
Mind you one cannot become a Guru
Without proper rituals.
In fact Maharaj is a crazy person ... 4

You call him a Guru because he relieved you of your fever.
It was just a coincidence.
Don't be a victim to such gimmicks ever.
His chanting of a hymn, his idiotic behavior,
Eating food from any body's hands
Shows him to be a fallen person.
Let us seek a Guru elsewhere ... 5

We shall go to Anjangaon
And make Kakaji's disciple as our Guru.
Let us leave early in the morning
To attend his Kirtan and seek the truth.
Guru should be well read, learned and wise.
Expert in all scriptures and treatise,
Of good caliber and a good guide
To help you in the ways of life ... 6

No such qualities are seen in Gajanan
So let us go to Anjangaon.'
Pundalik a pious man was disturbed by these remarks.
He gave his consent to her for going
To Anjangaon the next morning.
After this decision he slept well. In the later half of the night
He saw in his dream a person like Gajanan Maharaj ... 7

The person in his dream said to a sleepy Pundalik,
'You seem to have decided to leave
For Anjangaon with Bhagabai.
For getting a Guru of your choice. You may go if you like.
His name is Kashinath. Please remember.
You will be disappointed when you go there ... 8

Can a person become your Guru
By whispering something in your ears?
When people whisper in each other's ears
Do they become Guru of each other?
Pundalik, don't go after hypocrites.
Listen to me with care.
I will chant a Mantra in your ear.'
'Gan gan ganat bote.' He whispered ... 9

After a silence of a moment
He further said to Pundalik,
Ask me for anything and your wish will be fulfilled.
Pundalik was happy with these words.
He minutely observed the person in his dream
And was glad to see that he was none else
Than Shree Gajanan Maharaj himself ... 10

Pundalik asked for nothing else
Except the 'Paduka' of the saint himself.
The person said, 'Take them soon
And worship them tomorrow noon.
Pundalik woke up at this moment to take the Padukas.
No one was there not even the Padukas.
He felt confused, yet he knew
That the blessings of the saint will shine through ... 11

He remembered the Saint's comments
On Bhagabai's intents and his instructions
To Worship Padukas in the afternoon session.
According to this, He had to have Padukas for worship.
As he did not have them he decided
To get a new set made ... 12

But he remembered that the Saint had given him
His own Padukas in his dream.
While he was thinking of it all
He heard Bhagabai giving him a call
To go with her to Anjangaon.

He refused to go with her
As he would not accept any other mentor.
Bhagabai went to Anjangaon thereafter ... 13

Just two days prior to this incident
Zyamsingh Rajput of Mundgaon
Had gone to Shegaon for darshan of Gajanan Maharaj.
When he was about to leave for his town
Maharaj called Balabhau and spoke on,
'Send my padukas with Zyamsingh
To be given to Pundalik.' ... 14

Balabhau gave the padukas to Zyamsingh
Who carried them back for Pundalik.
Pundalik was waiting at the entrance of the village
And asked Zyamsingh if anything was sent.
Zyamsingh was surprised and took him to his residence
And enquired of the reason for asking this question.
Pundalik told him of the dream
Which cleared the doubts in Zyamsingh's mind ... 15

He handed over the padukas to Pundalik.
They are now installed at Mundagaon.
For him this was a great boon.
He worshipped the padukas in the afternoon.
Real saints take care of their devotees
And dissuade them from wrong doing.
When you read of this event, you will realize
How a saint gets his devotees wishes fulfilled ... 16

In Akola lived Rajaram Kavar of Brahmin community
Who was a dealer in gold and silver ornaments of quality.
He and his sons had great faith
In Shegaon's great saint.
His sons were Gopal and Trimbak.
Trimbak also called 'Bhau' was the younger.
He studied at the Medical College at Hyderabad.
From his childhood he believed in Maharaj ... 17

In times of difficulty
He always remembered the saint.
Once when he came on his vacation
He wished to offer him food of his liking.
How to do it was his problem.
His mother had died when he was a child.
His brother's wife Nani had a temper wild.
He prayed to Maharaj to help him this time ... 18

'O Maharaj, I desire to offer you food you enjoy,
Bhakar, onion and vegetables of your choice.
But who will prepare all this?
Only a mother can fulfill her child's wish.'
While he said this Nani appeared
And asked him the reason for his despair.
When he was hesitant she assured,
'Elder brother's wife is like mother. Be sure.' ... 19

He felt encouraged and told her his plans.
And that he wanted to go to Shegaon.
She happily went to the kitchen
And packed a box containing the Tiffin
Containing three breads, three onions and besan.
She asked him to hurry to the railway station
So that he can catch the train in time.
Alas! He missed the noon train which was designed ... 20

He said, 'O Maharaj, why have you disappointed me?
I am an orphan and have always missed
The pleasure of doing a good deed.
I feel like a crow unable to reach
Manas Sarovar at Himalaya's feet.
What unpardonable mistake have I committed
To miss the twelve o'clock train?
It's my bad luck, nothing else again ... 21

I vow that if this food is not served to you today
I will not eat anything, I say.

Please do not ignore this child of yours
And rush to eat this special food made for you here.
You are very potent.
When you can reach Kedareshwar in a moment,
Then why do you hesitate
To arrive here at my request? ... 22

I am not ordering you
But calling you with affection.
I don't mean to insult you under any condition.
Next train to Shegaon is after three hours.
I think by that time you will finish your lunch.' ... 23

Bhau waited at the station without eating anything
And went to Shegaon by the three o'clock train.
He noticed that Maharaj had not taken his meals
Though plates full of food were waiting for him in vain.
They included sweets like jalebi, gheevar,
motichur, shrikhand puri and kheer.
Balabhau had put them before the saint
So that after him the devotees could eat ... 24

The saint did not touch any of those things
And said he would take his food in the evening.
Persons offering food to him may wait
Or go away if they so wished.
Bhau reached Shegaon
And was happy to see the Saint there
Like a child seeing his long lost mother ... 25

He bowed down to the Saint
And stood there with folded hands
Awaiting the Saint's command.
The Saint looked up, smiled and said,
'What sort of invitation is this?
Is this the time to eat food?
I did not eat because of your request.
Now let us eat and enjoy the feast.' ... 26

Bhau was happy with these words
 And explained the reason of his delay.
 Balabhau asked him not to regret
 And serve the food at the earliest.
 Balabhau took out the food and gave it to the Saint
 Who ate two Bhakri's and onion
 And gave the rest as Prasad to the others.
 They were surprised to see the love of Maharaj for his
 devotees ... 27

It was like Shree Krishna staying with Vidur
 And participating the humble food
 Instead of the sweets at Kauravs.
 Similarly Maharaj waited for bhakri of Bhau Kavar
 Instead of sweets and delicacies.
 Bhau also took Prasad
 Given by Shree Maharaj.
 Sincere devotion makes such things happen ... 28

Maharaj told Bhau to go back to his town
 And blessed him that he would pass the medical exam.
 Bhau told him that he would come back for blessings
 And not for any personal things.
 He said that the Saint's feet were his only wealth.
 This is what he will cherish always.
 Thus saying he went back
 To Akola from where he came ... 29

A pious person named Tukaram Shegokar
 From the town of Shegaon
 Tilled his meager share of land.
 After the hard work of the day
 He used to go to the monaistry and pray.
 He helped the saint in filling his pipe
 And did sundry work in sight.
 This was his routine for many days ... 30

Yet there is a destiny which alters our ends.
 Things will take shape as it intends.

As usual one morning Tukaram went to his fields.
He sat warming himself up near the fire.
Behind him was sitting a white rabbit
Partly hiding in the bushes near.
A hunter searching for rabbits
Spotted it from not far away ... 31

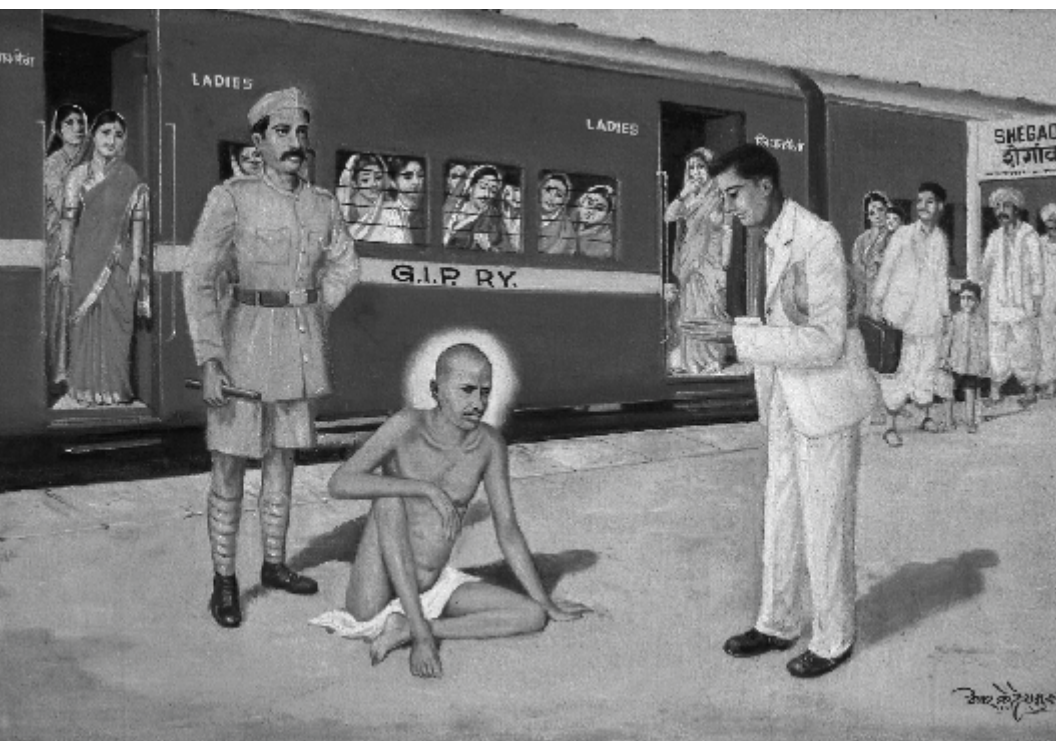
He aimed his gun pointing at the rabbit
Shooting it dead in a fraction of a minute.
But a stray shots hit Tukaram
Behind one of his ears.
Doctors failed to take the bullet out.
He suffered great pain in his head
And lost his sleep all throughout.
His vows to God too brought no respite ... 32

This did not deter him from going to the monastery.
A devotee there advised him to stop medication
And engage himself in full service of the saint.
He swept the floors there to get the blessings.
Tukaram did it for fourteen years
Keeping the floors clear like a mirror.
Then one fine day
The shot behind his ear dropped and fell away ... 33

The pain vanished
Certainly a reward for the continued service
To Saint Gajanan indeed.
Spiritual belief generally emits
From experience and stays firm
In the minds of those who serve.
Services offered to the Saints
Never ever go waste ... 34

May this treatise
Bring peace to the readers mind.

Chapter Seventeen



He was quiet until the departure of the train.
When the bell rang for the train to start
Unnoticed he moved on
And entered the ladies compartment.
The sight of a bare saint scared the women.
They immediately informed the policemen
Who came to drag him out of the compartment

Chapter 17

Shree Ganeshay namah.

Jai to you the most auspicious one!
Jai To the protector of devotees
Jai to God blue as a Tamal leaf
And the savior of the down trodden.
You killed Hirannyakashyapu,
Enemy of good people by emerging out of a pillar
To protect Pralhad ... 1

You had then a peerless form,
With fierce teeth and a violent jaw,
Mane flowing on the neck and eyes red aglow
Looking as if it was burning the earth below
And the entire universe was alight.
With his ferocious exterior
But devotees were not scared ... 2

They were like cubs playing in the lap of tiger.
Looking at you even Goddess Lakshmi
Did not dare to be in your vicinity,
Though the devotees could touch your feet.
O Lakshmikant loving your devotees
You fulfill their needs never saying 'no' to them.
The writer bows down to you to make him fearless ... 3

Many devotees of the saint stayed in Akola town
Whom he visited frequently on his own.
They were Bapukrishna of Chapadgaon,
Kashinath, Jijibai Pandit, Bachulal son of Gondulal

And many others of the vicinity.
Once when he was staying at the Khatav Mills
Vishnusa of Malkapur wanted to bring the Saint to his city
... 4

He requested Bhaskar to arrange for this trip.
This was the same Bhaskar of Adgaon who attained
nirvana.
He used to look after the Saint's comforts and needs.
Vishnusa depended on Bhaskar for the Saint's blessings.
Bhaskar requested Maharaj to visit Malkapur
As Vishnusa had invited him on this tour.
The Saint said, 'Don't force me. I don't want to go.
You will regret it if you insist ... 5

If a rope is stretched too much it breaks.
I don't desire to get away from this place
So do not bother me for God's sake.'
Bhaskar replied, 'Whatever you say
Please visit Malkapur for Vishnusa's sake.
I, your most humble devotee
Have promised him that you will be in his home.
Your refusal is shocking to me ... 6

Please honor my promise. Let us go to Malkapur.'
A persistent Bhaskar brought Shree Gajanan
To the Akola railway station.
On Bhasker's request
The station Master got a compartment vacated
For Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Who did not say anything or move at all ... 7

He was quiet until the departure of the train.
When the bell rang for the train to start
Unnoticed he moved on
And entered the ladies compartment.
The sight of a naked saint scared the women.
They immediately informed the policemen
Who came to drag him out of the compartment ... 8

They said, 'O you nude, have you no sense?
How did you enter the ladies compartment?'
With a jerk the saint freed his hand without fear
And continued to sit there in spite of the officers.
They now brought the Station Master in the picture.
When he saw the saint sitting here
He requested the police to let him be there
As he was a great saint unlikely to commit any offence ... 9

The Police officer said he had sent a telegram
To higher ups and there was nothing more in his hands.
So he will do whatever he thinks.
The Station Master took off his hat as a mark of respect
And requested the Saint to come out of the compartment.
He did it to respect the law.
A case was lodged against Maharaj
Which came for hearing in the court of Shri Jathar ... 10

He fixed the hearing at Shegaon
And stayed at the rest house while the case was on.
Venkatrao Desai of Akola was there too.
He had some work to be attended to.
Hearing of the announcement of the case
A lot of people gathered at the place.
Desai then asked Jathar what was the case about
And why it has attracted such a crowd ... 11

Jathar was surprised at Desai's ignorance
And said that the case was against Shree Gajanan
For moving bare bodied in the community.
Desai folded his hands and said to the authority,
'This is an improper case.
Shree Gajanan is a great saint,
An incarnation of God, a divine person,
A holy man with no material intention ... 12

He is a yogi with no bondage at all,
A yogi of yogis respected by all.
The police have erred in prosecuting the saint.

Please withdraw the case and correct the mistake.'
Jathar replied that The police should have been discreet
But now under the law his hands are tied ... 13

He then ordered his clerk to get the Saint.
To bring him there a police officer was sent.
The officer asked him to go as stated
And threatened to take him forcibly if he resisted.
Maharaj refused to budge an inch
And asked the officer to try and take him by his might.
Maharaj with his hand caught hand of the constable
And caught it so tight that his blood flow was hindered ...
14

The constable was uncomfortable with pain.
Since he did not return in time Venkatrao Desai was sent.
Jathar asked the crowd To disperse and not stand around.
When Desai reached the site
He heard of the constable's plight.
He asked the devotees to clothe Maharaj.
They did but he threw away the lot ... 15

He went bare to the court where he was offered a seat.
Shri Jathar said, 'It is improper to go naked on the street.
It is against the law. I request you not to go bare and
uncovered.
Shree Maharaj replied, 'How are you concerned?
Now fill up my pipe and don't be bothered.
Hearing this Shri Jathar melted down
And realized that the Saint was different
From the mundane crowd, ... 16

He compared the Saint to
Vrushabhdeo of Bhagawati, Shree Shankaracharya
And called him an incarnation of Vamdeoji.
He saw the Saint's blissful attitude
And realized his state of sainthood.
Shri Jathar then thought a moment
And decided not to charge him with any offence ... 17

Fire cannot be void of fiery element.
It needs restrictions as down in a store.
It may otherwise burn the house.
It can stand to no blame in such a case.
Likewise is the bareness of the Saint.
His disciples are guilty for his State,
Guilty of not draping him in a sheath of clothes ... 18

Shri Jathar ordered that basically
The Saint is a liberated soul.
His proper upkeep was Bhaskar's role.
He neglected his duty And was fined Rs. five as penalty.
Maharaj on hearing the order
Asked Bhaskar to desist from doing things
Against his will in future ... 19

Devotees decided to avoid train journey for the Saint
And arranged to get a bullock cart for him instead.
Once he came to Akola at Bapurao's place.
A Muslim saint Mehatabshah of Kurum
Was keen on meeting the saint.
He stayed at Kurum in Murtizapur taluka
And had requested Bapurao to call him
During the Saint's next visit ... 20

Bapurao sent a messenger to get Mehtabshah.
At this time he had already started for the Akola station.
The messenger met him on the way
Mehtab asked him to get in the cart on the road.
Look how a saint knows the mind of the other saint.
They indeed are omnipotent.
With him Mehtabshah had a few devotees.
They all shared Bapurao's facilities ... 21

Shree Gajanan came to Mehtab's room next morning.
Pulling his hair he gave Mehtab a good beating.
This was to make him understand
That roughness of people of his religion
Was a hindrance in his self realization.

Maharaj wanted Mehtabshah to stay away from malice
To justify his name in life.
Maharaj by thrashing him hinted that he wasn't free from it
... 22

Saints understand each other's minds.
Mehtab was happy to get a hint.
When Mehtab was getting the beating
His devotees got agitated.
Mehtabshah asked them to keep quiet
And go back to Kurum in their interest.
Except Shaikh Kadu all others left.
Seth Bachchulal invited the Saint for meals the next day ... 23

On reaching his place Maharaj
Did not descend from the buggy
And asked the driver to take it back.
Everyone was surprised at this action
As he had already accepted the invitation.
Someone suggested
That it may be because Mehtab was not invited.
So they went and invited Mehetab ... 24

They arrived in the same buggy to Bachchulal's house.
The saint shifted from the temple to the theater
To be with Mehtabshah who stayed there.
After the meals Mehatabshah told his disciples
To get him a ticket to Punjab as he desired to go there.
Shaikh Kadu said, 'The mosque at Kurum is half built.
You may go when the construction is complete.'
Mehtabshah's reply was unique ... 25

Mehatab said, 'I got orders from Maharaj
For going back to Punjab, I have thus to proceed
The construction of the mosque will be completed
With the grace of Shree Gajanan
Saints do not believe in difference of religion.
To them all are equal. Any extra importance
To mosque and religion will harm your persistence ...26

Temples and mosques are built of same material.
To fight for their different shapes is unreasonable.
Do you mean to say that Muslims belong to God
And the Hindus are phantoms?
Think wisely in the interest of humanity.
Both religions are created by the same divinity.
One should love his own religion
But also respect another's religious convictions ... 27

Peace and happiness will recede
If you do not think this way.
Now you will go back to Punjab.
The mosque will be built by Gajanan Maharaj.'
Mehtabshah went away never to return.
Both Hindus and Muslims should respect his words.
Though the saint thrashed Mehtabshah
There was love in his heart ... 28

Maharaj didn't take his meals without Mehtab,
A clear indication that there was no malice at all.
At Bapurao's place his wife suffered a queer spell.
It was Bhanamati, a strange happening as they seem to be.
At one moment she would get kunku on her forehead
At the next a rope around her neck.
At times her clothes would glow with fire
And dark scars on her back appear ... 29

Her clothes spread for drying would catch fire.
Her health was failing
With such mysterious and bewildering happenings.
She lost her taste for food
Resulting in her becoming very weak.
Bapurao spent a lot to cure the ill.
With no results at last he surrendered to Maharaj.
He addressed the saint with folded hands, ... 30

'Maharaj, my wife is suffering from Bhanamati.
I have tried my best to cure her from this malady.
My efforts have failed miserably.

How can Bhanamati enter where you are present?
How can a fox come and howl in a lion's den?
How can a stench exist where musk prevails?"
Hearing this Maharaj glanced at Bapu's wife
And the illness vanished the next moment from her life
...31

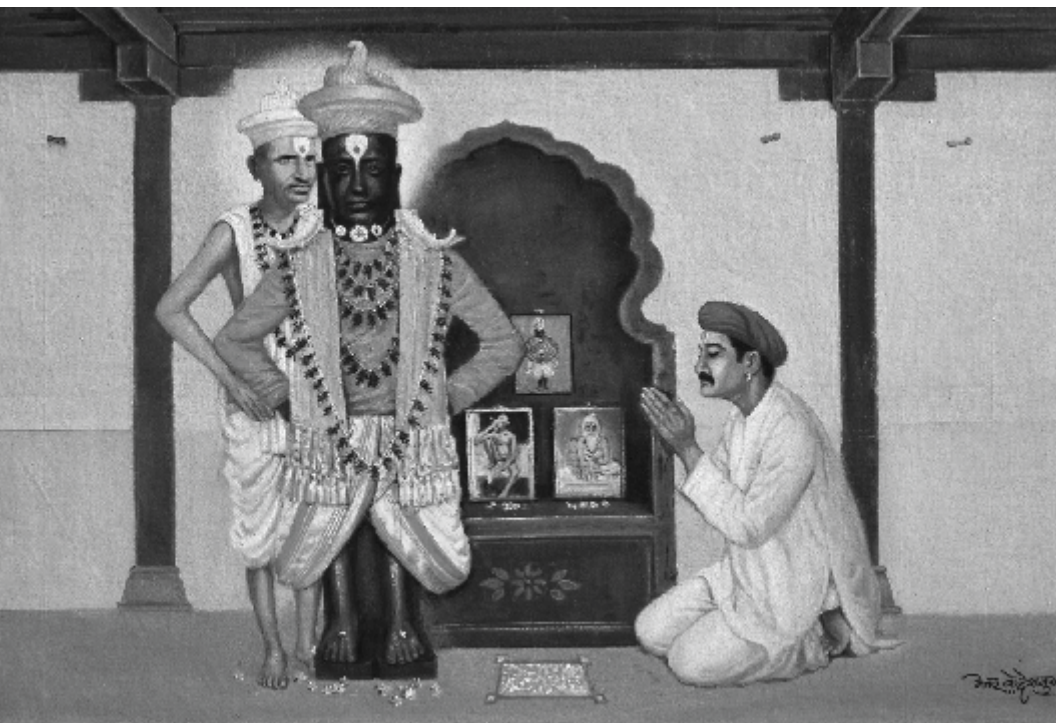
Once in his wanderings Maharaj reached Akot
To meet Narasingji, his brother saint.
There was a well near the monastery.
Maharaj sat on the parapet with legs hanging inside loosely.
He was constantly looking inside.
People watching him looked surprised.
Narsingji asked him the reason for this.
To which the saint replied, ... 32

'I see Godavari, Bhagirathi and Yamuna in the well.
I want to find out which others dwell.
You get their waters for bath every day
Why should I be denied the pleasure any way?
These rivers must come out and give me a bath today
Or else I am not leaving this place, think as you may.'
People who heard him thought he was crazy.
For the possibility was hazy ... 33

But the well water gushed out in a moment
Like a fountain it poured down on the saint.
He called upon the people to join the bath
In the holy waters of Ganga, Yamuna and Godavari
And many other rivers all across.
Believers joined him in enjoying the shower.
The fountain then subsided to the water's original level.
Saint returned to Shegaon after meeting Narsingji Maharaj
... 34

May this treatise
Bring happiness to the Devotees

Chapter Eighteen



Saints recognize the plight of the unfortunate.
Lucky are those who get a chance to be near.
Maharaj said, 'Bapuna, don't worry.
I will just now show you
Rukmini Raman Pandurang Hari.'
Saying so Maharaj stood up
And positioned his feet like Vitthal
With hands on the waist like the idol

Chapter 18

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to the divinity which showers joyous tidings.
Govind, Shriniwas, embodiment of all blessings.
Hope of the down trodden, save me O Keshav'
Keshimardan, Madhav, Madhusudan
O killer of Putna. Pandurang, consort of Rukhmini,
I need not say what I want from thee.
Scripts say you fulfill desires of devotees.
I beseech you to grant my wishes and be kind to me ...1

A devotee from Mundgaon near Akot, named Baijabai
Was the daughter of Bhulabai and Shivram Mali.
She was married in her childhood early.
Everything happens as per one's destiny.
When Baijabai came of age
Her father took her to his son in law's place.
But it had no significance
As Baijabai's husband was not potent ... 2

Parents of Baijabai were deeply affected.
Bhulabai, her mother even suggested
That Baijabai be married to another person.
Shivaram, the father did not concur.
He said masculinity sometimes comes late.
So they decided to wait
And let Baija be at her husband's place
Expecting that medicines may help ... 3

Both of them returned to their village.
Baija who was sixteen year of age,
With her honey toned complexion
She presented a youthful image.
Endowed with her beautiful eyes, a Sharp nose and a tall
figure
She enjoyed the power to attract the attention
Of any person ... 4

Her elder brother in law was enchanted by her splendor
And earnestly desired to make love to her.
He tried many ways of persuasion
Even a promise to treat her as his wife.
His attempts to seduce her were wasted.
Burdened by this torture, she prayed,
'O God why am I subject to such conflict?
When I have worshipped you from my childhood ... 5

My devotion got me no fruit.
The person I married has no manhood.
I know my fate in a way it is great.
Now I can entirely concentrate
And devote myself to your feet
Now my only request is
That no other man touches me.' ... 6

One night her brother in law came to her
To let her know of his evil intentions.
Baija turned down his overtures
By calling him a shameless creature.
She reminded him that a husband's elder brother
Has a relationship as good as a father.
His behavior thus should be as worthy as a father ... 7

But ignoring her remarks
He tried to grab her in his arms.
Suddenly he heard a thudding sound
Of his elder son falling to the ground.
He fell from the first floor to the base

Causing a great wound on his forehead.
Baija picked up the child in her lap
And dressed his wound with a medicinal wrap ... 8

Baija told her brother in law to learn a lesson
And not covet other women with passion.
Looking at the condition of his son
He regretted his shabby action
And did not bother Baija thereafter.
Shivram took her back to Mundgaon.
Her mother suggested that they go to Shegaon
And ask Gajanan the future of her daughter ... 9

So they all went to Shegaon.
Prostrating before Maharaj.
The parents requested the saint
To bless Baija to have an infant.
Maharaj smiled and replied
'She is not destined to have a child.
All men in the world are like father to her.
Better forget she is married any more.' ... 10

Shivram was sorry to hear this from Maharaj.
Soon they all returned to Mundgaon.
Baija was happy to know of what was in store for her.
With this visit she became the Saint's resolute follower.
Baija started visiting Shegaon
With Pundalik, a disciple from Mundgaon.
Her parents did not object to these trips.
They hoped this may bring back her marital bliss ... 11

They cherished a faint hope in their minds
That Baija's man would become potent by the blessings.
But her visits to Shegaon with Pundalik
Germinated doubts in the minds of the public.
People even started spreading rumors
That under the garb of religious excursions
Baija and Pundalik were enjoying physical satisfaction.
They openly pointed out the caste diversity ... 12

Pundalik was Maratha and Baija was of Mali community.
A great hue and cry was raised to break their attachment.
But both of them were pure at heart.
Bhulabai scolded Baija for this association
Saying that young men and women come together
For nothing else but physical satisfaction..
She even advised Shivram
To get her a husband from their clan ... 13

Bhulabai took Baija to Gajanan Maharaj
To find out the reason for the association.
She believed that saints knew every thing
And when asked they would tell.
Maharaj was like sandalwood
Which will never emit a bad smell.
Pundalik, Baija, Bhulabai and Shivram
They all went together to Shegaon ... 14

Maharaj looked at Pundalik and said with a smile,
Pundalik, Baija was your sister in your previous life.
Don't deny her affection
Even if it attracts public condemnation.
You both together worship God.
Bhulabai, you should not obstruct that.
She is the sister of Pundalik not his wife
She is not destined to have a husband this life ... 15

She will ever remain a maid like Janabai of Pandharpur.
Who got Namdev as her guru.
Like that Baija is one among the few.
She has surrendered to me.
From now on she is my Janabai.'
Hearing these words Shivram was overwhelmed
He could not speak a word after all that was said ... 16

Next day they returned to Mundgaon with Baija
No one thereafter objected to her visits to Shegaon.
Everytime Pundalik was her escort.
No one ever bothered about that.

The Saint's kindness abundant
Stopped the criticism around ... 17

Here is a tale how Maharaj always
Protects his devotees from dreadful spells.
Doctor Bhau Rajaram Kavar
Was in charge of Khamgaon Hospital.
He got a nasty boil on his body
Eminent doctors were brought from Amravati,
Akola and Buldana cities
To treat this discomfoting malady ... 18

All efforts with medicines, even surgery
Failed to bring relief to the state.
Bhau was restless lying in the bed
Due to unbearable pain.
His elder brother was concerned
Over Bhau's discomfort.
There was no alternative left at all
Except remembering Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 19

Thinking so they folded their hands
And prayed to Shree Gajanan Maharaj
To come to his rescue and cure him of the pain.
It was midnight and pitch darkness covered the sky
With foxes howling nearby
When a hooded cart drawn by two bullocks
Came to the doctor's door by luck ... 20

A Brahmin from the cart came and knocked at the door.
The elder brother opened it asking the purpose of the stopover.
The Brahmin said he was 'Gaja' and he came from Shegaon
He said he has brought 'Tirtha' and 'Angara' for Bhau Kavar.
He advised to apply angara to the boil and let Bhau sip the tirtha awhile.
He left the things with the brother and went away
Saying that he had no time to stay.
Hearing this Bhau sent a man to call back the person ... 21

He could not be traced nor the bullock cart.
They could not be found as they disappeared fast.
Bhau applied angara to the boil
Which immediately burst throwing out the infection.
The fluid oozed out within an hour
Bringing sound sleep to Bhau Rajaram Kavar.
Subsequently he was completely cured
And went to Shegaon to see the seer ... 22

Smiling at Bhau, Maharaj said, 'Look up,
That night you did not even give grass to my bullocks.'
Bhau understood that the visitor that night was Maharaj.
As a token of his gratitude he fed the people of Shegaon.
Once Maharaj left for Pandharpur
To visit God Vitthal on the banks of Chadrabhaga river.
Many devotees accompanied him.
Special trains for Pandharpur were scheduled ... 23

This was for a comfortable travel of the crowd.
The occasion was Ashadhi Ekadasi.
First stop on the journey was at Nagzari.
Jagu Aba, Patil, Bapuna Kale and many more
Were with Maharaj on this tour.
There is an underground cave at Nagzari.
Where springs of natural water flow freely
Yielding a name to the place as Nagzari ... 24

The great Saint Gomaji Maharaj
Had attained communion with God
At this venerable spot.
He was the first guru of Mahadaji Patil
Who got blessings of this Divinity
For welfare and prosperity of the Patil dynasty.
That is why the Patils of Shegaon
Visit Nagzari before they move on ... 25

They pay respects to Gomaji
Before they proceed by train as Varkari
To the holy city of Pandharpur.

With Maharaj on this tour were Bapuna and fifty others.
It was the ninth day of Ashadh in the waxing moon
And thousands of devotees started reaching Pandharpur
Under a cloudy sky drizzling but with no down pour ... 26

Pandharpur appeared like heaven on earth
With a sea of humanity in its girth.
Every inch of space meant for going round the temple
Was jammed with Varkaris
Chanting, 'Jai Jai Ramkrishna Hari.'
The entire atmosphere was charged with devotion
When palanquins of various saints came in procession.
They were of Nath, Nivruti, Dnyaneshwar and Janardan
... 27

Also were there Savata, Gora Kumbhar,
Sopan, Muktabai and Shree Tukaram Dehukar.
Devotees threw up 'bukka' in the air
To offer respects to them at the festival.
The sky was filled with bukka powder
Spreading its fragrance all over.
They threw Tulsi leaves and flowers
On the palanquins in that festive atmosphere ... 28

When Maharaj reached Pandharpur
He stayed at Kukaji Patil's house
Which stands on the pradakshina route.
A huge crowd gathered around the temple.
With Police force protecting law and order.
On the day of the festival
With Hari Patil all Shegaon people,
Except Bapuna, went to the temple ... 29

Bapuna was taking bath and thus was held back.
When his bath was over
He learnt that everyone had gone to the temple.
He hurried to join them there with the crowd around
He could not reach anywhere near.
Helplessly he offered God a prayer, ... 30

'O Vitthal, Rishikesh, why are you displeased with me?
Why don't you allow me to enjoy your blessing
You went to 'Aran' to give darshan to Savata Mali
Panduranga, come from the temple to meet me.
Aran was sixteen miles away. I am just at your gate.
People call you helper of the helpless
Then why are you ignoring me?' ... 31

Thus he prayed and at last disappointed
Returned to Kukaji's establishment.
He had no food and the despondent mood
Made him look pale and sunken.
So intense was his desire to see Vitthal
That his mind hovered over the temple.
People jeered at him calling him the unfortunate example
... 32

They teased him saying,
'You came here to visit the stalls and not see the idol.
Some said he was a hypocrite
Not an unfortunate at all.
Others taunted that he knew Vedant well
And needed not to visit the temple.'
For Vedantees, God is in their hearts not idols ... 33

They believe that only fools go to the temple.
People ridiculed him saying,
'His God for him stands on the street.
'Then why did he come here at all?
He should have called Vitthal to Shegaon.
These Vedantees advice others
Without a fragment of experience.
They preach without practice ... 34

They do not understand that self realization
Is possible only by worshipping the visible.
How can one attain adulthood
Without experiencing childhood?
Bapuna received such criticism.

No one protected him from this sarcasm.
He sat quiet without taking any food.
Maharaj watching the events and understood his mood ...
35

Saints recognize the plight of the unfortunate.
Lucky are those who get a chance to be near.
Maharaj said, 'Bapuna, don't worry.
I will just now show you
Rukmini Raman Pandurang Hari.'
Saying so Maharaj stood up
And positioned his feet like Vitthal
With hands on the waist like the idol ... 36

Bapuna saw him in this form
With garlands of Tulsi and flowers around his neck.
Bapuna prostrated himself in front of this image.
When he looked up it was Maharaj again.
He was happy at this darshan of the Deity.
When he went to the temple subsequently
He saw the same idol in that position
As was shown by Maharaj in Kukaji's residence ... 37

When people came to know of this incident
They requested Maharaj to bless them with the same
darshan.
Maharaj replied, 'Like Bapuna mould your mind.
The darshan is not an ordinary kind
Like a commodity at the market place
It requires an attitude of pious bend,
Just as seen in Bapuna's case,
To get a darshan of such a consequence ... 38

Maharaj revealed Vithoba to Bapuna
Because he was a real saint.
There is no difference between a saint and God.
It is like sugar and the sweet taste,
One cannot be separated from the other.
After sharing Prasad they returned to Shegaon.

With the blessings of Vithoba, Bapuna got a son
Who grew up to be an intelligent person ... 39

Services to saints never go waste.
Bapuna's son was named as Namdeo
As he came with the blessings of Vithoba Dev.
A devotee from Kavathe Bahadur of Vidharbha
Had also lodged himself at Kukaji's wada.
On the next day of the Ekadashi fare
Cholera gripped Pandharpur with a flare.
Thousands of people were dying there ... 40

The Police authorities asked people to leave the sacred
town.

Doctors too said they should move out soon.
The authority even drove them out as a precaution.
The villager of Kavathe Bahadur caught the infection.
He suffered from vomiting and loose motions.
His vigor was lost and he became weak.
No one gave him any medicine
Nor did they inform doctors for fear of police ... 41

Everyone left, abandoning him to the fate of death.
When you flourish people are your friends.
Adversity brings dire desertion.
This always has been the general equation.
God and Saints come to help in such a situation.
Looking to the devotee lying helpless
Maharaj asked people to take him with them.
'He is nearly dead.' They said ... 42

'We too will face difficulty.
In our entourage we are fifty.
Cholera is spreading like wild fire in the city.
Under the circumstances we leave for our own safety.
We cannot stay here even for a day.
Let us leave this place immediately.'
Maharaj said, 'It is foolish of the tour band
To abandon a sick brother from your land.' ... 43

He went out and caught the hand of the devotee,
Helped him to sit up and said with certainty,
'Come with me. To Vidharbha we go.'
The devotee moaned, 'I cannot even move.
I am on death bed with no relations now.'
Maharaj assured, 'Don't get scared,
The danger to your life is now over.'
Saying so he put his hand on the devotee's head ... 44

His symptoms vanished with that touch.
He felt strong and stood up.
How can death take away a person
When he is in the shadow of saint's protection?
He recovered within an hour
And joined his people on the return tour.
Rescued from fear of death and all that pain
He prostrated before Maharaj again and again ... 45

The devotee from Kavathe Bahadur remarked,
'Swamiji, you brought me back.
I was 'in the jaws of death.'
He cheered to the glory of the saint again.
All devotees in Pandharpur entourage
With Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Returned safe to the town of Shegaon.
They had Saint Gajanan as their escort ... 46

An orthodox Brahmin once came to Shegaon
For the darshan of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He heard of the greatness of the saint
And arrived there from a far off place.
Being a very orthodox person
He did not tolerate being touched by any one.
After looking at Maharaj he regretted
To have come all the way to see this saint ... 47

He branded Maharaj as a crazy person.
Behaving contrary to established traditions.
He did not appreciate people worshipping such a deviation

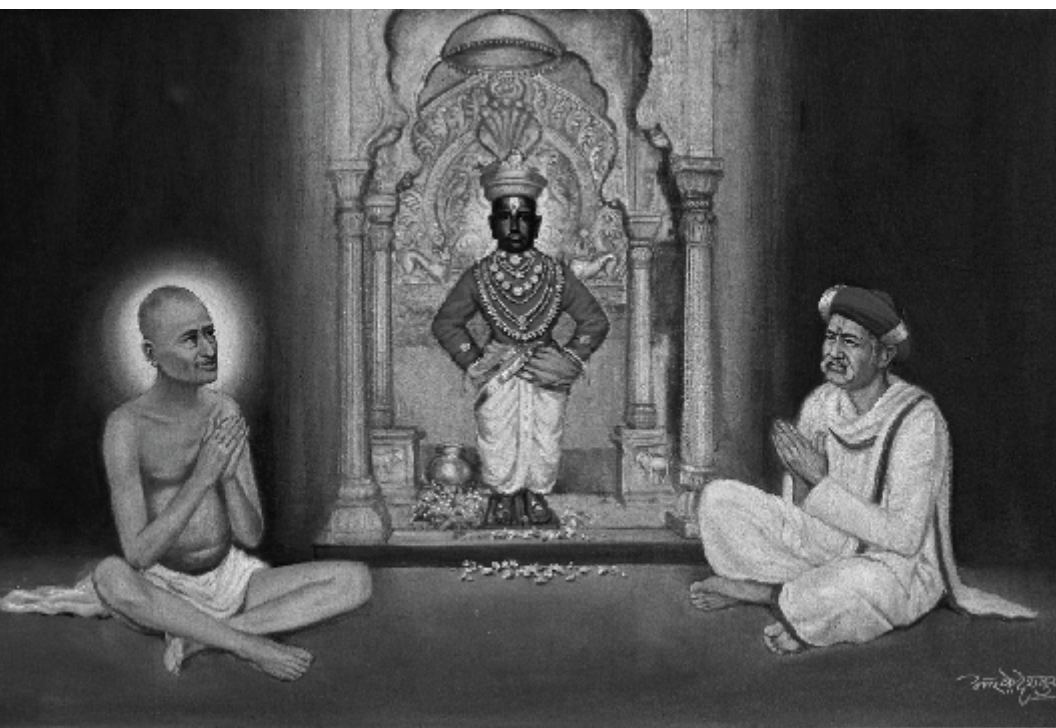
He saw a dog lying dead on the way to the well
And did not go further muttering to himself,
'No one removes the dead dog from here.
They are all Ganja smokers.
I am a fool to have travelled here,' ... 48

Maharaj heard this and to the Brahmin he said,
'Don't harbour any doubts. The dog is not dead.
Go, perform your worship as you desire.'
The Brahmin retorted, 'I am not crazy like you Sir!
The dog is dead lying here for an hour.
No one removed it. No one cares!'
Maharaj said, 'We are ignorant and spoiled
We don't possess wisdom so bright ... 49

Follow me to the well with your pitcher.'
With his feet he touched the dog lying there.
It stood up and took to its heels.
The Brahmin was spell-bound indeed
He fell prostrate at Maharaj's feet
And begged pardon for his misdeeds.
He served food to the devotees that day.
After taking Prasad he went away ... 50

We hope this treatise
Will bring happiness to all devotees.

Chapter Nineteen



'O protector of all devotees
All powerful, consort of Rukmini,
Please listen to my appeal. As per your command
I have lived in this world
Fulfilling desires of devotees.
You know my mission is now over.
I seek your permission to go away from here
I wish to stay at your feet at Vaikunth
In the ensuing month of Bhadrapad.'
Thus saying Maharaj folded his hands.
Tears rolled from his eyes

Chapter 19

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to Thee who doles out joy
Jai to thy impermeable form
Let my devotion remain at your feet
With no discrimination of any sort.
O Raghupati, come and bless me.
Great ones like you should never be harsh.
O Ananta, give me a chance to express my part.
O Jagganath, Don't fail me in my efforts ... 1

When Shree Maharaj was at Shegaon
A Brahmin Kashinath Khanderao Garde
Came to the town for his darshan.
He prostrated before the Maharaj
And was happy to see him as a liberated person.
Kashinath's father had described him so at Khamgaon.
He felt fortunate to come and see him at Shegaon.
While he was thinking so Maharaj pushed him with his
elbow ... 2

With this push Maharaj said,
'Go home your desire is fulfilled.
A postman is waiting for you at the door
He has a telegram for you to read.'
Kashinath was confused and couldn't comprehend
The meaning of what the Maharaj said
As he had not come to ask for anything
Nor could he ask Maharaj about the meaning ... 3

He bowed down to the saint with folded hands
And returned to his place Khamgaon.
A postman was really waiting at the entrance
With a telegram addressed to him.
He read the message within an instant.
It said he was promoted as Munsif
And was posted at Morshi office
This made him understand the saint's elbow nick ... 4

Once Maharaj went to Nagpur city
On an invitation of Shree Buti.
Nagpur was the capital of Bhosale's kingdom
But had now lost all its grandeur.
This was because of losing freedom
Which turned an owner into a begger
And bestowed greatness on foreigners.
Elephants and horses were replaced by motors ... 5

Changing times have such an effect
And for this no one is to be blamed.
Shree Gopal Buti's residence was in Sitabardi
And Maharaj was housed in a palatial building.
This was like enclosing a tiger
In a fortified place away from strangers.
Shree Gopal Buti's intention
Was to keep Maharaj at Nagpur forever ... 6

For Shegaon people he appeared as Akrur
Taking away Shreekrishna to Mathura.
Shegaon became a deserted place.
They asked Hari Patil to arbitrate.
'Please bring him back to Shegoan.' They said,
'Without him our town looks dead.
You are the head here and he is a rich man.
You giants can fight like elephants.' ... 7

It takes an elephant to fight an elephant
Not a puny fox from the crowd.
Maruti was selected to face Jambu Mali

And Arjun with Karna in the bouts.
They requested Hari to go to Nagpur
And get the Saint back to Shegaon soon.
In fact the Saint stayed reluctantly at Nagpur
Like God Shreekrishna at Hastinapur ... 8

Maharaj repeatedly asked Buti to let him go.
Buty ignored the requests
Dissuading him from doing so.
Though Buty was a pious and decent person
He was also proud of his possessions.
He called scores of people to dine with the saint
And participate in devotional songs
Throughout the day ... 9

But he did not allow Shegaon people to visit Maharaj.
Guests who came to take him were turned back.
Now it was Hari Patil's turn.
The great devotee boarded the train
Along with some selected friends
On his journey to Nagpur city
To bring back the beloved Saint ... 10

Simultaneously Maharaj at Nagpur said,
'O Gopal, let me go away from here
Before Hari Patil reaches Nagpur.
All peace here will be lost soon.
You do possess lot of wealth
But he has executive power and strength.
Hari arrived at Nagpur and entered Buty's house by force
Pushing away watchmen at the gate, of course ... 11

At this time a big feast was in the offing
With many Brahmins squatting on sesam plank seats
With silver plates and bowls and good food to eat.
Maharaj was sitting in the center on a decorated seat.
Such was Buti's wealthy décor
He was called the Kuber of Nagpur.

Maharaj rushed to the door when he saw Hari Patil
Like a cow running to her calf after a long parting ... 12

He said, 'O Hari let us go back to Shegaon.
I don't want to stay here any longer.
It is good that you have come.'
So saying he started walking out of there.
Gopal rushed forward and caught his feet
Saying, 'Maharaj, don't go before you eat.
Kindly oblige me by taking your meals
And then you may go where ever you like.' ... 13

Then he said to Hari Patil, 'Please give this a pause.
Join us in taking Prasad with Shree Maharaj.
I understand that he wants to go back at all cost.
I request you to save my prestige in front of the Brahmins.
If Maharaj does not eat any food
They will also leave.
It will be a matter of shame for me
So please join the feast before you go.' ... 14

Hari Patil agreed to this.
Maharaj and devotees took their meals.
A lot of people gathered to take the Saint's darshan.
Janakibai, wife of Gopal Buti
Goddess of the household, was a very pious lady.
She bowed to Maharaj's feet
And said her wish remained unfulfilled ... 15

Maharaj understood what she said
And applied kunku to her forehead.
He blessed, 'You will get one more son
Who will be very victorious.
You will attain salvation during the time of your husband.'
Saying thus Maharaj left
For Raghuji Raje Bhosale's place ... 16

Raghuji Raje was pious and noble.
He was a person most liberal

And an ardent devotee of Shree Ram.
His assets were blessings of Maharaj
Though he had lost his kingdom large.
Then he went to Ramtek.
After taking darshan of Shree Ram
With Hari he returned to Shegaon ... 17

Swami Shree Ranganath
A great saint of Dhar Kalyan
Came to meet Gajanan Maharaj
They exchanged notes in their own way
Not decipherable in a simple way.
Shree Vasudevanand Saraswati, born at Mangaon
Came to visit the Saint at Shegaon ... 18

He lived on the banks of Krishna River
And believed in ritualistic form of prayer.
When he was to come to Shegaon
Maharaj called Balabhau and said,
'One of my brothers is coming tomorrow.
Be sure he is properly respected.
He is very orthodox. See that the premises are clean
No dirty pieces of cloth should be seen ... 19

If he sees any, He will be annoyed like Jamadagni.
That Karhada Brahmin is always clean.
He is a learned man of discipline.
He will never compromise
On the right procedure of religious rites.'
So said Maharaj a day previous to the visit.
Swami arrived at Shegaon at the right minute ... 20

They looked at each other and smiled
Both appeared immensely happy.
One was a believer in Karma
And the other was in Yoga.
One was like the sweet fragrance of Jasmine
The other was that of rose sublime.

One was like the sacred Ganges
The other like Godavari River of sages ... 21

One was the incarnation of Shiva
The other Vishnu resting on the king of Serpents.
When Swamiji came into the chamber
Maharaj was sitting on his cot
Snapping his thumb with fingers.
The snapping stopped when he arrived.
The two saints looked at each other.
Then Swami sought permission to depart from there ... 22

Balabhau was surprised.
He desired his doubts to be clarified.
He said, 'You two have different ways.
Yet you called him your brother. It is strange.'
Maharaj appreciated Bala's question.
'There are three paths to reach the Omniscient.
They all take you to the same destination,
The final point of self realization ... 23

They appear different and confuse the onlooker.
'Karma Marg' emphasises on cleanliness and silken ware,
Sacredness of human touch and worship thrice a day.
Fasting and rituals in a disciplined way.
One who goes this way is a real orthodox.
Any omission deprives him of the 'Karm Marg'.
He has got to be careful on his course.
He shouldn't hurt others even by words ... 24

'Bhakti Marg's stress is on devotional prayer.
Here the mind has to be crystal clear.
Even a shadow of an unclean thought
Will deprive the person of what is sought.
Compassion, love and modesty
Must rule the heart of the devotee.
He must have faith in scriptures and worship
And continuously have the name of God on his lips ... 25

These are the requirements of Bhakti Marg.
One who acquires them can meet God.
This is the easiest way of self realization.
But practicing it is harder than the Karma Marg direction.
Like the sky posing an illusion
Of being nearer to the viewer.
The spread out of 'Yoga Marg' is bigger than these.
It lies in the mind of the practitioner ... 26

A person following the Yoga Marg
Requires no external methods.
Whatever is in the universe around
Can be found in his inventory.
He travels the path of Yoga
With all these things inside
Yet he has to know the methods
Regularly required in the series ... 27

Asan, Rechak, Kumbhak,
Knowledge of Ida and Pingala veins,
Dhouti and Mudra Tratak,
The Yogi should know for his success.
Knowledge of Kundalini and Sushumna
Should show him the right path.
This will lead him to knowledge of self
Yet it has to include love for all ... 28

Any action without love is a waste.
It is thus essential to preserve the 'love aspect'
On all the three self realization trails.
Color of the skin, tall, short, beautiful and ugly
Are just attributes of the body.
They have no effect on the soul.
Everyone looks different
But has a soul in the same mould ... 29

The same thing can be said of the three paths.
They look different but have the same target.

This disparity is totally forgotten
When they finally attain their object.
The path one follows is important to him.
Those who fail, brag about superiority of their trail.
Those who succeed become saints ... 30

Once they reach such a spot
They merge in as one as a supreme thought.
Vasistha, Vamadev, Jamadgni,
Atri, Parashar, Shandilya Muni
Travelled the Karma Marg with great dignity.
Vyas, Narad, Kayadhukumar,
Maruti, Shabari, Akrur, ... 31

Uddhav, Sudama, Parth and Vidur
Took Bhakti Marg as their round.
Shree Shankaracharya Guruvar,
Machichindra, Gorakh, Jalandar
Touched self realization
By following Yoga Marg tradition.
Vasishtha, Vidur and Machchindra
Each type got the same fruit of salvation ... 32

The tradition rolled on. Don't ever doubt it.
Shreepad Vallabh and Narasinha Saraswati
From Ganagapur Audumberwadi
Protected the Karma Marg practice.
Namdev, Savata, Dnyaneshwar,
Kanhua, Chokha Mahar, Damajipant Thanedar
Took Bhakti Marg, path of devotion ... 33

Shaikh Mahammad of Shrigonda,
Anandi Swami of Jalna, Surji Anjangaon's Devnath
Were all followers of Yoga Marg.
Presently Vasudev has Karma Marg
And I go by Bhakti Marg,
Like many others on the devotional trail
Like Dhondibuva of Palus ... 34

Sant Nana of Sonagir, Yashvantrao of Jalna
Khalla Amma, committed to Almighty,
Shree Saibaba of Shirdi,
Gulabrao with intellectual insight,
Sant Adakuji of Varkhed in Chandur taluka.
Sant Zingraji of Murha, Nagpur's Tajuddin Baba.
Though their ways were different
They commanded a saintly status ... 35

We, all brothers have come to this earth
To show to the devotees
The right path to know the Divinity.
Each one will take the path of his choice
And will ultimately rejoice
And find salvation at the feet of Almighty.
Now, Balabhau don't ask me further
Nor tell of this dialog to others ... 36

Let me sit here quietly under the garb of being crazy.
Those who have faith in me and have my love
Will see the fulfillment of their desires.
I don't need the others.
Knowledge about the supreme reality
Is to be imparted to those who are eager to study
And not to non believers' and the scornful ... 37

We have to be steadfast on our path
To walk towards the Omnipotent God.'
Tears rolled from Balabhau's eyes
When he heard the sublime advice.
He was overwhelmed with love.
His body shivered with extreme bliss
Beyond all words to describe.
He bowed to the saint bent on saving the oppressed ... 38

Among his other devotees was Salubai.
Once Maharaj said to her, 'Take flour and pulses
And cook day and night for the devotees.
Go on feeding all those who come here.

You will be dearer to God Narayan.
Salubai of Vizapur observed the routine.
She is still alive in Shegaon town ... 39

One Pralhadbua Joshi had an opportunity
Of being blessed by Maharaj but lost it unfortunately.
There was one Tulsiram at Jalamb near Khamgaon.
He had an intelligent son named Atmaram.
Because of his special liking for Veda scripts
He went to Kashi for further analysis.
A bath in Ganges, food from alms,
Studying with guru was his daily program ... 40

Today's students are different.
They waste their time in entertainment.
There is no chance of learning
With this type of predisposition.
Atmaram had his own identity.
He was aware of his responsibility.
On return from his studies he went to Shegaon
To pay respects to Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 41

Atmaram had learnt the Vedas' diction
But Maharaj was the sun of all comprehension.
He recited the script alongwith Atmaram
And corrected him where he was wrong.
It was a surprise for everyone in the assembly
To see the saint recite Vedas so fluently.
How can a honey bee ever be
Away from the source of honey? ... 42

Atmaram used to come to Shegaon from Jalamb
And offer his services to the sacred mission.
So much was his devotion that after Maharaj's sojourn
Atmaram looked after his memorial.
He never accepted any remuneration
For his selfless devotion.
On the contrary offered a donation ... 43

He gave up his property, house and land
To the temple trust's command.
Never bothered about the amount.
It is the devotion that counts.
Shabari achieved the grace of Shree Ram
By offering berries from the farm.
Atmaram's humble donation
Brought him the same results ... 44

Dattatray Kedar, Narayan Jamkar
And Dudhahari Bua who lived on milk simply
Were sincere devotees of the saint only.
Maruti Patwari of Morgaon Bhakre in Balapur Tahasil
Had Timaji Mali in his service.
Timaji's job was to guard the crops
In the Patwari's fields ... 45

One night Timaji fell asleep
On the heap of grains in the field.
Some donkeys entered the premises
And started gobbling from the heap.
As Maruti was a devotee of Maharaj
The Saint had to rush to the field
To save the precious yield.
He called Timaji to wake up from sleep ... 46

Timaji woke up to see
Maharaj disappearing from the scene.
He saw the donkeys and drove them away
But thought of Maruti's wrath at the break of the day.
He realized that he had betrayed the boss.
Nearly half of the heap was already gone.
Timaji had a great sense of responsibility.
There was no excuse for negligence of duty ... 47

As against this present day servants
Do not care for the interest of the master
And are dishonest and arrogant.
Timaji was not of that class.

He was unhappy over the loss.
He could not find reasons to excuse himself
He decided to own responsibility of the loss
And beg pardon from the boss ... 48

Though in his mind he was sure
That Maruti will forgive him for his behavior.
He thus went to Maruti and humbly touched his feet.
He said, 'My sleep has put you to loss.
While I slept the donkeys consumed the half.
Please come to estimate the damage
And relieve me of my anxiety Saint! ... 49

Maruti said he had no time to inspect the field.
He was going to Shegaon for his darshan routine.
However on his return he would visit the scene.
When Maruti reached Maharaj in the morning
The Saint was sitting with Jagu Patil and Balabhau near
him.
Maharaj smiled mildly and said,
'I had lot of trouble last night.
As a devotee you have used me as watchman at sight ... 50

You employ lazy servants and sleep comfortably.
At night the donkeys devoured your grain stealthily.
So I went and woke up Timaji.
I asked him to watch the stock and came back.'
Maruti was quick enough to understand.
He bowed down to the saint and said,
'You are our sole supporter.
Responsibility of a child is on the mother ... 51

Whatever we possess belongs to you.
You are in control of what we do.
The heap of grain is yours.
Just for name's sake Timaji was there.
You control the universe from here.
A mother tolerates trouble given by children.

I being a child, you rushed to Morgaon
To save me from incurring loss ... 52

I will go back and remove Timaji from service.'
Maharaj said, 'No, no, this is not justice.
He is honest and felt sorry for his lapse.
Did he not come to you to report the mishap?
He even suggested you to go to the field
To assess the loss in the yield.
You told him you are coming here
And go to the field after returning there.' ... 53

Maruti was overwhelmed by the limitless kindness
Of Shree Gajanan the Saint.
No one had spoken to him of donkeys entering the field.
Yet he knew everything that what happened in the night
By his inner vision ... 54

In Shake one thousand eight hundred and sixteen
An incident occurred in Balapur city.
Maharaj was sitting in the verandah
Of the house of Sukhlal Bansilal.
He was bare bodied one hundred percent.
Passersby paid respect to the saint.
A police constable happened to go in that street.
His name was Narayan Asaraji ... 55

He lost his temper looking at Maharaj
And said the man was a hypocrite.
He is sitting naked intentionally
And this should not be tolerated kindly.
He poured abuses on the saint.
Not satisfied he beat him with a cane.
In spite of the cane marks on the body
Asaraji went on hitting him badly ... 56

A shopkeeper named Hundiwala intervened and said,
'It is not proper to beat a saint.
You have no reason to act in this manner.

God is the protector of saints on this earth.
Look at the cane marks on his body
And put an end to this absurdity.
This way you are inviting your own death
Like a sick man ignoring rules of good health ... 57

You are doing the same by hitting a pious man
It is not still late to beg pardon from Maharaj.'
The Havaladar said, 'There is no reason
For me to beg his pardon.
A curse from a crow won't kill animals.
This naked man on main road side
Is uttering filthy words.
To brand me wrong is simple injustice.' ... 58

The prophecy proved to be true.
The Havaladar and his relatives
Died in a fortnight without any clue.
Thus each one has to be cautious
In rating people around us
To determine their credentials,
Hypocrites or saints!
As it happened in Havaladar's case ... 59

In the district of Nagar
A small but beautiful town of Sangamner
Is situated on the banks of Pravara River.
The famous poet named Anant Phandi
Came from this small town only.
A man named Hari Jakhadi lived here.
He was a Yajurvedi Brahmin poor
And moved from place to place for survival ... 60

In his travel he reached Shegaon
To have a darshan of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He saw thousands distributing Prasad
Celebrating fulfillment of what they asked,
With the blessings of Gajanan Maharaj.
Looking to all that he thought,

'It appears I may have to go back
Without getting the grace I want ... 61

It is because of my bad luck. My luck stands like a rock.
No vegetation even grass grows on such a surface.
I get food one day and know not the fate of next day.
Such has been the life so far.
No one will get me a bride. I am a pauper ... 62

O Swami Gajanan! Abode of happiness rife
I desire the pleasure of married life,
I would like to have a virtuous wife
To have a marital bond to rejoice.'
As Jakhade was engaged in these thoughts
Maharaj pondered in a different sort.
He spat on Jakhade and said, 'others want to get out
But this person wants to get into the mundane net.' ... 63

He looked at Hari Jakhadi and said,
'You will get everything you have desired,
A wife and a happy married life
With children and money on your side.
Now go home and enjoy your lot.
Don't ever forget the Almighty God.
Maharaj gave him money for marriage expenses.
He lived a happy life.
How can the grace of a saint go waste? ... 64

Once Shree Ramchandra Govind Nimonkar
With Vasudeo Bendre went to Mukhana River.
Which runs through the hills of Saihyadri
In the tahasil of Nashik at Igatpuri.
The woods there were lush green,
Fruit laden trees stooped bending,
Wild animals roaming without encumbrance.
Along the river ran a small stream ... 65

It flowed through a narrow valley
Called 'Kapildhara by many.

It is considered holy in countless ways.
People bathed therein on auspicious days.
Nimonkar was a Yoga scholar.
He desired to extend his knowledge further.
He enquired with ascetics at the place.
They all turned down his request ... 66

Disappointed by this he folded his hands
And implored God to show him the right man.
Suddenly he saw a person at Kapildhara
Who could teach him the ways of Yoga.
He had long arms reaching his knees
Who appeared to be a sage indeed.
This calm man with face so calm
Was sitting there in meditation for long ... 67

Nimonkar prostrated before him
And waited till evening for him to open his eyes.
The Yogi did not open eyes nor said anything
Throughout the day he didn't eat a thing.
Other ascetics returned with the approach of evening.
With folded hands Nimonkar begged knowledge from the
sage.
The sage gave him a chart and said,
'This hymn has sixteen words. Keep repeating them ... 68

You may learn Yoga by their strength.
Following Yoga Marg is difficult.
As you know an insect can't circle Himalayan region
Nor can a live sea shell climb Meru Mountain.
You may try Yoga by being a bachelor
And keeping your mind and body cleaner.
If you do it with all sincerity
You may learn some Asan without difficulty ... 69

Don't ask me any more questions. Take this Prasad.'
The sage gave him a red pebble and vanished.
The same yogi met Nimonkar
At Nashik by the Godavari River.

He ran to the Saint and caught his feet
And said, 'You seem to be fed up with me.
Last time we met you never gave your name
Or address of the place to meet ... 70

Maharaj said, 'The red pebble
I gave you tells my name.
This is from Narmada and indicates God Ganesh.
You couldn't guess it as it is hard to understand
My name is Gajanan and I am from Shegaon.
Come with me to the residence of Dhumal
Where we will discuss about Yoga in all.'
Thus saying Maharaj disappeared as he talked ... 71

Nimonkar went to Dhumal's place
Where he was happy to see Maharaj again.
He bowed to Maharaj in his mind
And told Dhumal happenings at Kapildhara and Nashik.
Dhumal was happy and praised the Saint.
Advised Nimonkar to worship the pebble every day.
And perform the Asans in a regular way ... 72

Tukaram Kokate of Shegaon
Faced the misfortune of losing his offspring
When it was born.
To Maharaj he promised a child
Out of those which survived.
By the grace of Maharaj
He got three children,
One of which was to be given to the Saint ... 73

Tukaram forgot about the promise
Because of his immense love for his offspring.
Narayan the eldest son got sick one day.
Medicines could not help him any way.
Tukaram remembered at this moment
The promise he had made to the saint.
Narayan survived and served the saint with grace
With a message to all to honor their promise ... 74

In the month of Ashadh
Maharaj and Hari Patil went to Pandharpur city
To meet Vitthal the supreme Almighty
God, addressed by many names
As Kalpataru, Kamalnabh and the all in all of saints,
Controller of the universe
And acclaimed by Vedas as protector of all ... 75

Consort of Rukmini, residing in saint's hearts
Compassionate and kind to devotees
From all parts and of all sorts.
Maharaj arrived at Pandharpur
And took bath in Chandrabhaga River.
Then he went to the temple to meet God Vitthal.
His prayer to Almighty was simple ... 76

'O protector of all devotees
All powerful, consort of Rukmini,
Please listen to my appeal.
As per your command
I have lived in this world, fulfilling desires of devotees.
You know my mission is now over.
I seek your permission to go away from here ... 77

I wish to stay at your feet at Vaikunth
In the ensuing month of Bhadrapad.'
Thus saying Maharaj folded his hands.
Tears rolled from his eyes at the thought
Of separation from Hari who befriended him a lot.
Hari Patil asked him with folded hands,
'Why these tears? Have I hurt you by any means?
Please tell me. I am perturbed at this scene. ... 78

The Saint replied, 'you will not understand it.
Even when I explain to you the reason.
It requires a deeper perception.
Do not harbor any tension.
I can only say that our association
Is now coming to an end.

Let us return to Shegaon this moment.
Prosperity will always rain on you and your descendants
... 79

Celebrations of return were over.
Hari Patil looked anxious however.
He told the people of what Maharaj said
Of his association coming to an end.
In the month of Shravan Maharaj got weak day by day.
At Ganesh Chaturthi in Bhadrapad here is what he said,
'Now all of you should come to the monastery
For the immersion of Ganapati ... 80

It is said in 'Ganesh Puran'
That an idol of Ganesh be made of earth on Chaturthi.
After worshipping and offering sweets
It should be immersed in water next day, Panchami.
That day is now here.
Celebrate it by immersing my body in water.
Don't weep at all and don't forget I will always be here
To protect and guide you forever and ever ... 81

I can never forget you.
'Throw away torn clothes and wear new.
Said Shreekrishna to Arjun in Geeta on the field.
To that advice I will now yield
And change my body as other saints did.
Maharaj spent Chaturthi in a happy mood
With Balabhau and devotees of the neighborhood.
Next day holding Balabhau's hand he said, ... 82

'Don't think I have left you, Keep up the devotion.
Never ever forget me
I am here only for your information.
Saying so the great Saint stopped his breath
And by pranayam pulled it up his head.
This was at the noon of Bhadrapad shuddh Panchami
Thursday, in Sadharan naam Samvatsar
Shake One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Two ... 83

While holding up his breath he uttered, 'Jai Gajanan.'
And merged himself in supreme Brahma at Shegaon.
His movements stopped thereafter
Plunging the atmosphere in to sorrow and despair.
Very soon the sad news went round
Through the villages and towns.
People gathered in great haste.
They cried beating their chest ... 84

'Gone is our living God. He is gone forever.
Gone is the savior of down-trodden and poor.
Gone is our solace and comfort and happiness.
Winds of time have extinguished the flame of knowledge.
O Gajanan you were our guardian.
Who will offer us protection now?
There was no reason
To leave us so soon.' ... 85

All the devotees
Vishnusa, Bankatlal, Martand Patil
Tarachand, Shripatrao Kulkarni, Hari Patil
Rushed to the monastery.
It was the day of Rishi Panchami.
All of them decided to close
Maharaj's Samadhi the next morn.
This was announced at the site ... 86

They decided to wait till the evening
For devotees to come and pay respect.
They remarked that fortunate ones will get darshan.
This news went round to various sections.
Govindshastri Dongaonkar, a learned person
Said, 'Maharaj would keep the life flame burning
Till the affectionate devotees keep coming.
To prove that he said, ;Keep some butter on his head ... 87

The lump melted with the warmth.
This was the effect of Yogashastra acquired by Maharaj.

Govindshastri said Maharaj can live like this for a year
But it was advisable to close Samadhi after darshans are
over.

It was agreed by all.

A thousand devotees sang devotional songs.

Devotees who lived far away from Shegaon

Got the news in their dreams flashed by Maharaj ... 88

A huge crowd of devotees

Gathered at Shegaon that Rishi Panchami.

A chariot was decorated for his last journey.

Many Bhajan singers

Reached Shegaon in big processions.

Roads were cleaned and decorated with Rangoli.

Illuminations with all over to celebrate the journey ... 89

Maharaj was moved to the decorated chariot

And the last journey started.

It went round the town all night

Proceeded by musical bands on the ride.

Small groups sang Bhajans.

Others said 'Jai' to Shree Vitthal.

Tulsi, gulal, bukka were showered on Maharaj

Distributing sweets as the saint's Prasad ... 90

Some from the crowd showered Rupees and coins

On the chariot carrying the Saint.

The procession moving through Shegaon

Reached the monastery at the dawn.

He was carried to the place of Samadhi

And bathed to the chanting of religious melodies.

Final worship was offered with rituals and honor.

The gathering shouted 'Jai Gajanan' ... 91

'Jai to the God who came as a man.

Jai to him who bestows immense bliss.

Jai to the Lord of this globe.'

Saying thus the body was rested

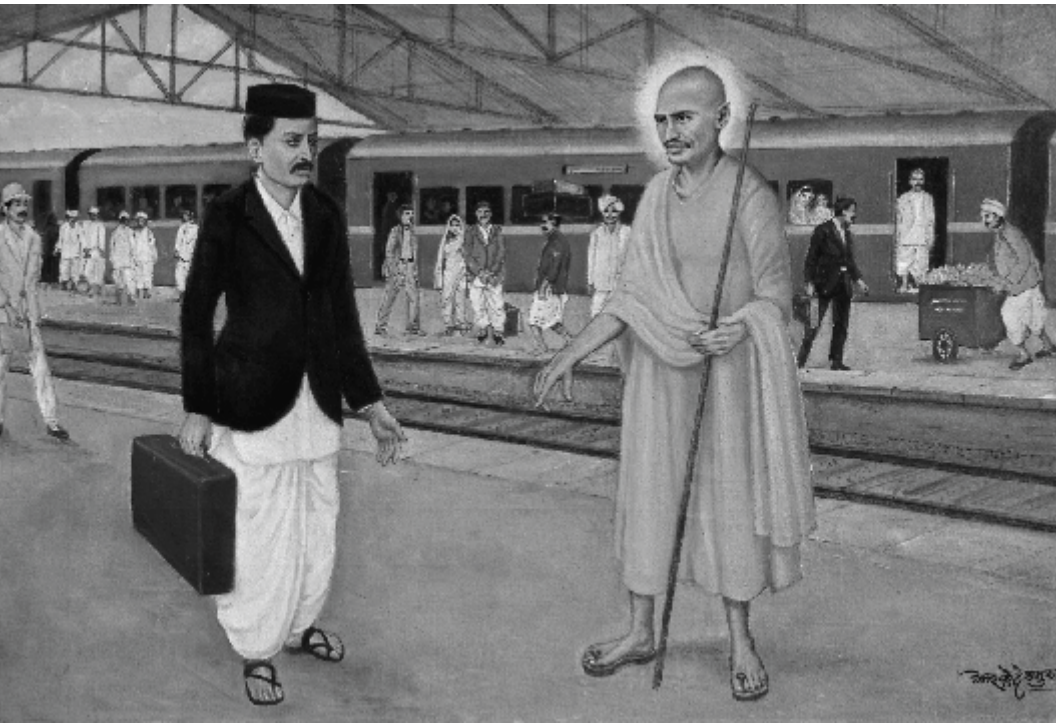
With head to the North at Samadhi place.

Everyone watched it saying, 'Jai Gajanan'.
The pit was filled with salt, argaja, abir and so on ... 92

The saint is still there.
Prayers were offered for ten days.
Large gatherings visited the place.
Each one was offered food on those dates
As Prasad of Gajanan Maharaj the saint.
Innumerable devotees participated in the ritual.
Greatness of a saint is really supreme.
Even an emperor is insignificant before him ... 93

We hope this treatise
Brings happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Twenty



At the time of returning at Bori Bunder station
He saw a sage with long arms and concentration.
He was chanting the name of God
And slowly he approached Laxman.
He asked, 'Why do you look so frustrated
When you are a devotee of Gajanan saint?

Chapter 20

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to you consort of Rukmini
Resting on the banks of Chandrabhaga River
Please bless me in this endeavor.
You are the king of kings, In charge of everything.
Then why do you ignore me?
Let your kind grace
Destroy my sins and anxieties ... 1

Lend me cheer to sing your glory.
If this way I am not blessed
It is you who will be solely blamed.
Such blemish should not come on thee.
O Shyamsunder, Consort of Rukmini,
O Pandurang of Pandhapur,
Vithoba on Chandrabhaga River
Please fulfill my desire ... 2

After the 'Nirvan' of Shree Gajanan Maharaj
People said there is nothing left at Shegaon.
A sea without water or a bower without flowers
Lose their charm.
They thought it is useless going to Shegaon
Like offering flowers at a temple without God.
So many said that, but it was wrong.
The invisible flame of Maharaj is still immortal in Shegaon
... 3

Though Dnyaneshwar Maharaj attained Samadhi
On the banks of River Indrayani
He did meet there many devotees.
Like that Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Gives darshan to those who come along
Believing that he exists in Shegaon.
Here follows the incident of Ganapat Kothade
A staunch devotee of the great Saint ... 4

Kothade worked as an agent
At Shegaon Branch of Rayali Company.
Every evening he would go to the saint's Samadhi.
He would sit there for some time in meditation
For mental satisfaction.
One evening he thought that on Dasera day
He should perform Abhishek worship
And offer food to Brahmins at the temple ... 5

He made all arrangements accordingly
And bought necessary provisions and grocery.
His wife didn't like it and said,
'Sir, what are you doing? This is a waste!
Tomorrow is Vijaya Dashami festival.
Get new clothes for the children.
All this spending on Abhishek and Brahmins
Will not bring you anything ... 6

We have children to feed.
I don't have an ornament to wear
Does this befit a house holder?
We have also to save our future.'
Ganapat did not like this advice.
He told her that caring for others
Ranks higher than demands of domestic life.
The same night Maharaj appeared to her in a dream ... 7

'Don't harass your husband any more.
Let him do what he likes.

This would bring you no loss.
Don't have love and attachment for transient things.
All the possessions will dissipate.
Your deeds alone will be never abate.
Abhishek and feeding are good actions ... 8

These deeds involve sacrifice
In the form of service to others.
Expenses on such fetes are never a waste.
It is like a seed sown in the earth.
So take my advice. I tell you not to obstruct him.'
With a counseling like this
Ended her precious dream ... 9

Next morning she told her husband this
Who was happy at the occurrence.
He advised her to have full faith
In the continuing existence of the Saint.
He asked her to believe that all things
Including children, assets and precious gold
Belonged to Maharaj in his fold
And she should stop worrying about these ... 10

Ganapat celebrated Dasera with a worship of Maharaj
And a feast to Brahmins as envisaged.
His faith in the saint was more sublime
With these incidents in his life.
Now to the experience of Laxman Hari Janjal.
He was a devotee of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He went to Mumbai for some business
With a mind disturbed by domestic problems. ... 11

At the time of returning at Bori Bunder station
He saw a sage with long arms and concentration.
He was chanting the name of God
And slowly he approached Laxman.
He asked, 'Why do you look so frustrated
When you are a devotee of Gajanan saint?

Do you remember the food made on the death anniversary?
It was for four hundred guests at Amaravati ... 12

That time their teacher Bapat had lost his son
Yet with Pethkar he did come to partake in the prasad.
It was due to Maharaj. He had appeared in their dreams
To say they should join your gathering.
Have you forgotten all this?
Laxman was confused with all this rendering ... 13

He wondered who this man could be.
With respect he bowed to the sage
Who suddenly disappeared in a moment.
When Laxman returned he amended his behavior
And performed the anniversary every year.
Shree Gajanan Maharaj had met
Avadhut Jairam Khedkar of Rahit Sahit village
In the garb of a saint ... 14

Madhav Martand Joshi, a Government Officer
Once came to Kalamb Kasur village all the way
For land survey. It was Thursday.
Being a devotee of Maharaj, He desired to visit Shegaon.
He told his peon Kutubuddin
To get ready with the bullock cart ... 15

Kutubuddin humbly told Joshi
That the weather was nasty.
'Man' river was flooded with muddy water.
Ignoring this request Joshi got the cart.
He asked Kutubuddin to drive to Shegaon.
This cart entered the river
And soon was filled with gushing water
Before they could cross over ... 16

A storm combined with lightning and thunder roared
Welling the River 'Man's flood.
Many huts around were uprooted
Kutubuddin was frightened of death.

Joshi too was scared. He started praying to the Saint
From amidst this natural calamity.
With folded hands he said, ... 17

'O Gajanan no one except you can save us now.
Scriptures describe a sage saving a sinking boat
By just touching it at the sea.
You too Shree Gajanan have similar powers.
Kindly extend your hand and save me.'
Water entered the cart, and the bullocks got frightened.
Joshi told Kutubuddin to leave the reins
And pray to Maharaj to come and help us ... 18

'O powerful Maharaj our lives are in your hands.
Do as you like. Take us or save us.'
Reins of the cart were thrown aside.
Both of them closed their eyes.
Then a miracle came over.
The cart had safely crossed the river
And was standing on the other shore.
Both of them were glad at the marvel ... 19

They were happy to experience the authority
Of Maharaj who saved them from the calamity.
Saved from the dreadful plight
They reached Shegaon at night.
They bowed down at the Samadhi.
After joining the procession Joshi offered money
To feed Brahmins as per his vow
And left Shegaon on his routine journey ... 20

Yadav Ganesh Subhedar was a cotton broker at Hingani,
Once he lost Rupees Ten Thousand in brokerage money.
His health and well-being dwindled completely.
He tried his best to re-establish himself
And recover the loss. But he failed completely.
During that period he went to Wardha
To his friend Asirkar
Where at the door came a beggar ... 21

He was garbed in Maharashtrian attire,
Had a big stick in his hand and a dirty headgear.
He was shaking like an old man.
Looking at him Asirkar got mad
And yelled out at him to get to the back door.
There was a chance of getting alms there.
He said, 'Don't come here anywhere near.'
The beggar completely disobeyed the order ... 22

He stepped up and sat near Subhedar
And held his bowl in his front for alms.
Said, 'Please spare some coins for me if you can.'
Subhedar wondered at the audacity of the man.
He stared at the beggar who looked like Maharaj.
The man had the same gleam in eyes and style of talk.
The only difference was that this person
Was shaking with some unknown disturbance ... 23

His features too were like the Saint.
This made Subhedar think a moment.
'How can he be the Maharaj
Who took samadhi long back?
Whatever be the state
I will give him money as to the Saint.'
The beggar took the dole and asked for more
Reminding him to hand out jaggary as he had vowed ... 24

He said that the loss in business
Was because of no fulfillment of the commitment.
Yadav gave him some money but he asked for more
Yadav spared a handful coins for the old man's bowl.
At this time Asirkar went inside leaving them alone.
The beggar said, 'Don't have qualms about the saint.
Remove your clothes. You are like a son to me.
All your ailments will vanish as I look at your body' ... 25

The beggar moved his hand over Yadav's person.
This was the time Asirkar returned.
The beggar who was there disappeared.

Subhedar tried to locate him thereafter
But couldn't see him anywhere.
Yadav guessed that he was Maharaj.
He thought it was an auspicious augury
And he would be blessed with lot of money ... 26

His carts loaded with cotton
Came to Wardha for sale on the same date.
He got a good profit on his deals that day.
Yadav then believed that the beggar he met
Was none other than the Saint.
Maharaj always protects his devotees.
The experience of Doctor Kavar next
Is another story ... 27

Bhau Rajaram Kavar was transferred to Telhara
From the hospital at Khamgaon.
Before joining at the new place
With his family he came to Shegaon.
After darshan of Maharaj
He hired a bullock cart.
Balabhau addressed him
When he was about to start ... 28

I request you to leave Shegaon
Tomorrow after the Prasad.
You never went away this way
In all your visits on previous occasions.
Moreover today is not an auspicious date
To go on a travel at any rate.
Kavar seemed to agree to half heartedly
But left the place as predecided ... 29

The night was drenched in darkness deep.
He missed the road after he launched on the trip
And strayed into a narrow path
Ending at a lake in a barren patch.
The cart stopped in the woods with no one around
To guide him out of the unknown ground.

The cartman said they have missed the direction.
Kavar was surprised but understood the situation ... 30

He abused the cart man for his mistake.
Thereupon the cart man said,
'Don't curse me like this.
I go to Telhara every week
As far as I think I took the right road
The bullocks too walked straight on the course.
I don't know how they came to this lake.
This is not the path they ever always take.' ... 31

Kavar faintly guessed the cause of the event.
He thought it to be the action of the Saint
As he had left Shegaon without Prasad
And that too ignoring Balabhau's request.
With folded hands he implored Maharaj
To protect him and show him the right path.
Suddenly he heard twinkling bells of bullocks
Which lent him sufficient courage in the dark ... 32

He asked the cart man to go in that direction.
This way they reached the road junction.
Enquiring there they learnt
That they were still in the Shegaon jurisdiction.
Kavar asked the cart man to drive back to Shegaon
Where they reached in the early hours of the morn.
He told Balabhau what happened on the way
He said Maharaj disliked their going this way ... 33

'Now take Prasad and go tomorrow.
No one should refuse Prasad before leaving this borough.
It is he who has brought you back safe.
None should expect things to go always his way.
Whatever the saint's wish will happen
So have faith in them and don't complain.'
Next day after taking Prasad
Kavar left for Telhara by the right path ... 34

A person named Ratansa, Bhavasar by caste
Had a year old son sick for some time past.
He had some disease which made him weak.
Many doctors administered medicines
But there was no sign of relief.
He took no milk. High fever made him sick.
He cried all day long.
Doctors declared that there was no cure at all ... 35

Ratansa grieved over the child's health.
Dinkar was almost nearing death.
His extremities had turned cold,
Light in his eyes had dulled down most.
His pulse was missing as a warning note.
Ratansa brought him to the saint's Samadhi
And put him there near the divinity.
He folded his hands and said, ... 36

'O Maharaj! Please save my child.
If he survives, i will distribute sweets worth Rupees Five.
You have blessed many devotees.
I too want to experience such bounty.
Kindly don't ignore me.
If my child dies at your gate
It will bring you a great disgrace.' ... 37

People declare
That the touch of your feet is like a drop of nectar.
Please bless me, O protector.
If my child dies at your door
I will break my head and live no more.
O Gajanan a glance of yours is like elixir.
Please look at us and save the infant.' ... 38

Moments later the child moved and started crying.
To devotees around it was a miraculous thing.
It was all due to the grace of Gajanan Maharaj.
Darkness can never obliterate the brightness of the Sun.
Dinkar recovered fully as a result of absolute devotion

Which had at its origin in faith and conviction.
Similarly Dada Kolhatkar was blessed with a son
By the boundless blessings of Shree Gajanan ... 39

Ramchandra Patil's daughter
Chandrabhaga who was barely sixteen
Faced a difficult time at delivery.
The experience is painful for womanhood generally.
As per tradition she came from Ladegaon
To her mother's place for delivery.
After the child birth she was running temperature
Which was declared to be typhoid fever ... 40

She was treated by many doctors around
But the temperature never came down.
She was taken to Akola for better treatment
Each one had a different diagnosis for her ailment.
There was no unanimity of opinion.
All healings resulted in confusion.
Patil decided to surrender to Maharaj for treatment.
And got holy ash and water from the saint's place ... 41

Chandrabhaga applied holy angara to forehead
And sipped holy tirtha every day.
She who couldn't walk a step
Could soon go to the samadhi's steps.
This was the effect of holy ash and water.
God always blesses them who have faith in Him.
Each devotee should have resolute devotion
In the entity of his worship ... 42

Janakibai wife of Ramchandra had to suffer
From discomforts predestined for her.
She had gastric trouble and stomach ache.
Medications did not give her a break.
The ailments affected her wits
And she started acting like a lunatic.
Her speech even lost clarity.
At times she lost sense of being hungry ... 43

Some said she was haunted by an evil spirit.
Some others branded this as a queer disease.
Some went to the extent of saying
Patil as an executive had many enemies
Who retaliated on the family with black magic.
Medical treatment brought no results.
Being rich he was exploited by many doctors.
He spent a lot But got no relief for her ... 44

Tired of all this he then said'
'Gajanan Maharaj will now be my doctor saint.
My wife is his daughter in law.
His blessings will eliminate all the ills.'
After her bath every morning she circled the Samadhi.
With this routine and her husband's advice
Her devotion to Maharaj was not wasted.
She was cured of all her ailments ... 45

Sincere services to real saints
Are never wasted but they should be full of faith.
After Shree Gajanan, Balabhau took his place.
He performed a few miracles in the town
And expired on Vaishakh sixth of the waning moon.
The saint went into the dream of Narayan
Asking him to replace Balabhau.
He died in Chaitra on sixth of the waxing moon ... 46

Service to saints is a pious achievement.
This chance comes only to those with good precedents.
Legends of Shree Gajanan are beyond measure
Like the stars in the expanse of these heavens
Beyond description of ignorant humans.
The ocean of the saint's life is unfathomable.
I am just an instrument, the pen which writes.
The writer has been the Saint divine ... 47

Hope this treatise
Brings happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Twenty One



Ramchandra, son of Krishnaji Patil
Was a sincere devotee of Maharaj.
One noon the saint went to his house
In an ascetic mendicant's garb.
He called Ramchandra and asked for food to eat.
Ramchandra glanced at him he looked like Maharaj.
He respectfully brought the ascetic in
And offered him a short plank seat to sit

Chapter 21

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to thee, O multisplendored,
Jai to thee the indestructible.
Jai to Lord of things near and far
Jai to the king of this cosmos!
You call yourself the savior of the fallen.
You forgive sinners with great affection.
This action brings to you further significance.
I request you to ignore my sins too without reservation ... 1

Soiled clothes are brought to water to get laundered.
I have come to you, don't ignore me please.
Earth doesn't discard a thorny tree.
You save both, sinners and the blameless
Without discrimination or attachment.
Sun needs no extra glow to displace darkness.
Its rise is enough to devour the gloominess.
Concepts of sin and virtue are your own process ... 2

You create the sinners to uphold your worth.
Whatever it is please relieve me
From this dense danger, with your blessings.
O Pandurang. You are so powerful
I have no one else to support me in the mundane muddle.
Now I turn your attention dear readers
To this final climax.
You have been with me all through till here ... 3

It calls for good fortune to read about this saint.
Those who have faith are saved
From pain and miseries of these days.
An incident at the temple is proof ample
At the construction of the temple
A laborer was working at the top with a mason.
He lost his balance and fell ... 4

He slipped while passing a stone to the mason
And came down from a height of thirty feet.
He fell on a heap of stones.
People saw him tumbling down
And assumed the certainty of his demise.
But it was otherwise. A miracle swept the scene.
He was unhurt and came down safe and sound.
Someone had caught him in the air
And left him down to stand on his feet ... 5

But no one was seen in the region
People were happy to hear and know
That it was the saint who saved the person.
Maharaj would not let anyone get hurt
In the process of temple construction.
The labourer was most lucky
To feel the touch of the divinity at this juncture ... 6

A Rajput lady afflicted by an evil spirit
Came to Shegaon from Jaipur district.
God Dattatraya advised the lady
To come to Shegaon on Ramnavami
To enable her to get rid of the trouble
With the blessings of Gajanan swami.
She came with her children on the appointed day.
The festival had started on Pratipada, the first day ... 7

Crowds had gathered to celebrate Ram's incarnation.
This time there was a hall under construction.
Stone pillars measuring five feet by eighteen inches
Were lying around supportless.

Work was suspended for the time being.
After the celebration people rushed for Prasad.
The lady went to a pillar for support
Which fell on her and the children. Alas! ... 8

People were afraid that she had died under the weight.
No one even knew her name and address.
They lifted the pillar and pulled her out straight.
Gave her a glass of water and rushed her for a check
To Doctor Lobo across the street.
She was a surgeon and devotee of Christ.
She examined the Rajput lady with great care
And was amazed to see that she was unhurt ... 9

The falling of a pillar on her had a different significance.
With this action the Saint liberated her from a spirit.
After getting exorcised from the evil
The lady and her children returned to Jaipur safe and sound.
Similarly at another festival
A large beam fell on the head of Naik Navare a worker.
Who miraculously escaped unhurt
By the saint's benevolence ... 10

Ramchandra son of Krishnaji Patil
Was a sincere devotee of Maharaj.
One noon the saint went to his house
In an ascetic mendicant's garb.
He called Ramchandra and asked for food to eat.
Ramchandra glanced at him he looked like Maharaj.
He respectfully brought the ascetic in
And offered him a short plank seat to sit ... 11

He worshipped the guest and stood there still
There upon the ascetic said to Patil,
'I have come here today to tell you something.
Don't be troubled by the debts you have.
They will be cleared in days shortly.
River Godavari dries up in summer

But rains fill it in a few hours.
Prosperity will soon dance at your door ... 12

The house where I eat never suffers defeat.
Bring me a dishful of delicacies
And some clothes to dress in.
Any offerings you make to me
Will positively reach the Almighty
Provided the donor is a pious devotee
Of the all pervading Divinity ... 13

Ramchandra brought him delicious dishes.
Which the ascetic enjoyed in great happiness.
When he offered dakshina to the guest
He returned the Five Rupees and said,
'I don't want any money, I came here to ask you to take up
The management of the temple
In stead of dakshina give me this service ... 14

I don't see any one more proficient
Than you to take up this pious action.
Your ailing wife will regain her health.
I will tie a Talisman around your son's neck
To keep evil spirits away from him.
This job I am asking you to take up
Is a difficult one as your own people
May at times try to stall your efforts ... 15

The job is like working in a tiger's hide
Each move is to be monitored with great skill.
Don't breed any jealousy in your mind.
Let each move of yours be honest and kind.
Don't take up a project against the authority.
Respect saints and sages, discard illogicality.
If you follow this simple guide
God will always be on your side ... 16

Let your expenses not be more than your income.
Never show off beyond your competence.

Don't let sages and saints go empty handed
When they come to you on their own or invited.
Adore these saintly personalities.
God dislikes them who insult such dignitaries.
Never ever think of harming blood relations
Respect your relatives with established traditions ...17

If you at all lose your temper
Let it not be deeper than a superficial cover
Like a jack fruit coarse outside
With loving pardon hidden inside.
And lastly remember I am always with you.
After tying a talisman around his neck
The ascetic disappeared in a moment.
Ramchandra thought over the incident all day ... 18

He arrived at a conclusion that the guest was Maharaj
Who had come to advise him in an ascetic garb.
The same night Maharaj appeared in his dream
To remove lingering doubts from his mind.
Maharaj has great affection for his devotees.
His glorious life story is a savior of humanity.
But it does require a resolute faith
To experience his magnanimity. 19

Now in this saga of the great sage
We have come to a stage where we recapitulate
The glory of his victory.
The first chapter after obeisance to Deities
Tells the story of how the saint appeared
On Magh Vadya Saptami
Near the house of Devidas a devotee ... 20

Bankatlal and Damodar were the two
Who recognized the saint true.
In the second he attended the kirtan
Of Govindbua and showed a miracle
To Pitambar Shimpi and then went
To the house of Bankat Bhavaniram.

Third chapter depicts the offering
Of heroin to the saint ... 21

This was done by an ascetic
Against a promise of fulfillment of his dream.
Maharaj started smoking heroin.
Water touched by his feet had a salutary effect.
It saved Janrao Deshmukh from death.
Maharaj explains the types of death.
Throws out Vithoba for his deceit.
The fourth deals with the arrogance of Jankiram ... 22

He doesn't give burning coal for the saint's pipe.
Because of this his feast is spoilt.
He begs pardon of the saint
And the food turns to edible again.
Janakiram becomes his devotee.
Maharaj asks Chandu for 'Kanhole' sweets.
He liberates Madhao after showing life after death.
Disciples perform Vasant Puja with great mirth ... 23

Chapter five depicts Maharaj
Sitting in a Yogic posture at Pimpalgaon.
It was at the Mahadeo temple
Where the cowherds worshipped him
They all were at Pimplegaon
Where Bankatlal went to bring him back.
Then he went to Akoli to liberate Bhaskar,
He got water in a dry well. Bhaskar comes under the
Saint's care ... 24

The sixth chapter describes Bankatlal's farm.
People had gathered to eat corn on the cob.
Bees attacked the invitees
Who ran away except Bankatlal.
The incident tested his devotional matter.
Bee sting had no effect on Maharaj.
He went to Akot to meet Narsinghji
Who was the disciple of Kotasha Ali ... 25

He stayed there for a few days only
 He had brotherly relations with Narasinhaji.
 Then he went to village Shiver
 On the banks of Chandrabhaga River
 To meet Vrajabhushan.
 He then visited the Hanuman temple
 And stayed there for the Shravan celebrations.
 The seventh chapter tells some thing queer ... 26

It is about the Patil brothers
 Who were rough in their behavior.
 They spoke to Maharaj with arrogance.
 Hari lost a wrestling bout with the saint.
 With the miracle of sugarcane their ego shrivelled.
 He blessed Khandu Patil with a son, Bhikya was his name.
 Saint asked him to feed people with mango juice every
 year.
 Patil brothers started respecting the seer ... 27

Chapter eight talks of a dispute
 Of Saga of a family feud between Patil and Deshmukh.
 Mahar Chowkidar lodged a complaint against Patil.
 An offence was registered against him.
 But he was exonerated by the Saint's blessings.
 Maharaj recited Vedas in front of Telangana Brahmins
 And proved his authority over the scriptures ... 28

He stayed in Krishna's garden at the temple of Shiva.
 There he explained a few lines of Geeta to Brahmagiri
 ascetic and crushed his ego.
 Here he was unhurt by a burning cot
 Conveying that fire can do a saint no harm.
 The ninth chapter witnesses a wild horse turned.
 A person was reminded of his vow to bring heroin.
 Maharaj with disciples went to Balkrishna's house ...29

This was at Balapur on Das Navami day
 Where Balkrishna was given darshan of Ramdas
 And all his doubts were cleared away.

Chapter ten takes us to Amaravati
To meet Balabhau of spiritual identity.
Ganesh Appa and Chandrabai
Surrender their worldly belongings
At the feet of the Saint and get His blessings ... 30

Maharaj blessed Ganesh Dada Khaparde.
Balabhau was beaten by an umbrella one day
To test his devotion.
A naughty cow was calmed down.
Ghude's hypocrisy was exposed.
Chapter eleven tells of Bhaskar's dog bite.
Maharaj taking him to Trimbakeshwar.
Where he met Gopaldas at Nashik ... 31

At the request of Zyamsingh, Maharaj visited Adgaon.
Bhaskar expired and was interred at Dwarakeshwar
By the side of Satibai's resting place.
Crows were ordered to stop their menace
Ganu Javeri was saved from an explosion in the well.
Chapter twelve tells story of Bachchulal.
Pitambar Shimpi wears clothes given by Maharaj.
At Kondoli Maharaj brings leaves to a barren tree ...32

Pitamber stayed at Kondoli till he lived on.
Now let us go chapter thirteen
A new temple was built at Shegaon
The Saint came there in cart carrying sand.
Zyamsingh took Maharaj to Mundgaom.
Rains stopped the feeding program.
Zyamsingh gave his property to Maharaj,
Pundalik was saved from plague infection. ... 33

Gangabharati was cured of leprosy.
In chapter fourteen Bandutatya got lucky.
He found buried treasure
And freed himself of all his debts.
This was all due to the blessings of the seer.
On Somvati Amavasya he went to Narmada River.

Boat carrying him got a hole at bottom.
Narmada closed it by delicate hands of her ... 34

A betel leaf was sent to Madhavnath.
Chapter fifteen describes the Akola scene
Where Tilak came for Shiva Jayanti.
He was given bhakari as Prasad.
Shridhar Kale was not allowed to go abroad.
In chapter sixteen Pundalik was restrained
From going to Anjangaon.
Maharaj sent paduka to him with Zyamsingh ... 35

He enjoyed 'Bhaji Bhakar' brought by Kavar.
Tukaram was relieved of a gun shot
Which entered his head near his ear.
Chapter seventeen tells of his travel
To Vishnusa staying at Malkapur,
When police prosecuted him for being nude.
Mehtabshah was sent back to Punjab
Advising him to command communities' harmony ... 36

Effects of an evil spirit were removed from Bapurao's wife.
Ganges and Godavari waters were brought to Akot well site.
Chapter eighteen tells the story of Baija.
And how Doctor Kavar's boil was cured by sacred ash.
Maharaj goes to Pandharpur with disciples and Bapuna
Bapuna Kale was given darshan of Vithoba.
A devotee from Kavathe Bahadur caught cholera infection.
Maharaj cured him in a minute's fraction ... 37

To remove the ego of an orthodox Brahmin
A dead dog was brought back to life.
Chapter nineteen brings blessings to Kashinathpant.
Gopal Buty takes the saint to Nagpur as guest.
Hari Patil brings him back from the feast.
Maharaj meets Shree Vasudevanand Saraswati.
Balabhau had some doubts about the meeting ... 38

Maharaj removes those doubts.

He protects grains from donkeys' grazing.
 Narayan dies at Balapur, a consequence of beating Maharaj.
 Saint blesses Jakhade who gets married as he wished.
 At Kapildhara Nimonkar gets his darshan.
 As service to Maharaj Tukaram gives his son Narayan.
 Maharaj goes to Pandharpur
 Takes permission from Vithoba and returns from the tour
 ... 39

In the month of Bhadrapada on Rishi Panchami
 The saint of our times took Samadhi.
 Chapter twenty narrates miracles after the day.
 Those with faith get darshan and blessings even today.
 Chapter twenty first is the climax of the story
 Summarising the happenings in the journey.
 This effort has been made for the devotees
 To enjoy the essence of saint's history ... 40

Several incidents do occur
 Those remind us of his existence.
 Contributions came in ample
 For the construction of the temple.
 It is a majestic structure with no parallel in the world.
 With rest houses in all quarters
 For the devoted visitors ... 41

Listing the donors will be a long process.
 So given here are important names.
 Hari Kukaji Patil, Banaji of Sangawi.
 Ganaji of Umari, Mesaji of Batwadi,
 Gangaram of Ladegaon, Bhagu Nandu, Gujabai
 Banabai of Akola mother of Sukhdeo Patil.
 All of them donated in thousands.
 There were other donors to the list ... 42

Ramchandra Krishnaji Patil, Dattu Bhikaji,
 Sukhdevji of Palaskhed, Martand Ganapati
 Resident of Shegaon, Ratanlal Balchand,

Dattulal and Bisanlal of Panchgavhan,
Ambarsingh of Takli, Kisan Belmandalekar,
Vithoba Patil Chavarekar, Gangaram of Hasanapur.
All these donors got together in devotion
And donated generously for the construction ... 43

Around the Samadhi were built halls
Offices and kitchens to serve visitors all.
Yet much remained to be completed.
Thus a novel idea was initiated.
Each land lord paid an anna per Rupee
Of his revenue as religious duty
And each cart load of commodity coming to the market
Paid half anna per Rupee to the kitty ... 44

They all paid the amount happily
As it was used as construction money.
Many fire worships were performed for collection.
Four of them were great celebrations.
Kisanlal Shethji performed Shatchandi Anushtthan
Inviting many learned Brahmins to perform.
The procedure of this worship is complicated.
Any error in the process is not tolerated by Goddess Chandi
... 45

This fire worship is performed under great tension.
Bankatlal, father of Kishanlal
Was a great devotee of Maharaj.
On the last day of the performance
He got such a sickness that he was sinking to death.
Everyone was worried and wondered
Why such a thing should threaten his health
When the Shatchandi Yadnya was in progress ... 46

Bankatlal said to Kisan, 'My son, don't be upset.
My savior Shree Gajanan will set the things right.
So go ahead and perform the yadnya with correct rituals.
Saint protecting his devotees will remove all obstacles.'

It all turned out to be correct.
Bankatlal soon got well with the blessings of the saint.
During this worship a lady under the influence of an evil spell
Was also relieved from the menace and went home well
... 47

Banaji Tidke Sangavikar, Gujabai of Kasura,
Waman Shyamrao of Chapadgaon
Also performed Yadna at Samadhi at Shegaon.
Thus many religious functions were held.
Shree Gajanan Maharaj is a great saint.
So long people were pious in their stance
Vidharbha was a happy piece of land.
With decrease in faith downfall began ... 48

The yield from farms dwindled to a lower mark.
The saint couldn't bear such a disorder.
Therefore probably he concealed himself under water.
In fact the foundation of Samadhi site
Was built with mortar from depth of thirty feet
And there was no reason for water to leak.
Thus it was felt that Maharaj was upset
At Vidharbha's attitude of neglect ... 49

He thus collected water around him.
If people of Vidharbha desire to win again
They should start worshipping the saint.
This should be with great faith.
If not, more despair they may have to face.
Whatever is sown in the land of Shree Gajanan
Will bring back a yield in multiple of a million.
Grain sowed on rocks will bring nothing back ... 50

Whenever service to saints is ignored
The result is famine in the region around.
Religion is like a tiger in your psyche's den.
If it is not there jackals of bad thoughts will dominate the cave.
Devotion is like a virtuous woman divine.

Its absence resembles a concubine
Who brings disgrace to a person
Spending time in her association ... 51

Don't deviate from the path of religion
And don't drift away from faith's conviction.
Don't fight amongst yourselves.
This alone will increase your strength.
Behavior of this nature will surely brighten your future.
Visit Shegaon at least once a year
For darshan of Gajanan, the great seer ... 52

Read these prayers once a year.
Reading twenty one chapters of this narration
Is like offering as many modaks to Shree Gajanan.
Or consider these chapters as twenty one tender twigs
Of durva grass and offer them each
With the reading of this devotional recitation.
With friendly feelings of human nature
Lend joy to the entire atmosphere ... 53

It is like rays of the moon taking over the night
Which should be reckoned as a great delight
As the Ganesh Chaturthi festival bright.
Consider each letter here as a durva blades
And it's meaning as the modak sweet.
Offering of durva and modak
Should be done in the form of reading
These verses are authentic and not mere fictional writing
... 54

A nonbeliever here is a loser.
One who reads this with faith regularly
Will achieve what he desires.
This holy book is like River Ganges
With events as water and the verses as waves.
This biography is like the wish fulfilling tree
With chapters as branches and stanzas as leaves.
He who has faith will achieve the saint's blessings ... 55

He will be protected by the Divinity
In times of difficulty.
The volume is like the wish granting crystal
Which gives you all you desire
Provided you have full faith in the endeavor.
Every house where this holy story
Of Shree Gajanan is read daily
Will achieve perpetual prosperity ... 56

By reading this book poor will get wealth.
Sick persons will regain their health.
Infertile will be blessed with a child.
Those desiring a son will get a male offspring.
The reader will get a selfless friend.
All his anxieties will come to an end.
One who reads this on Dashami, Ekadashi and Dwadashi
Will be bestowed by the Saint with prosperity ... 57

He who reads the entire book
On Gurupushya day in one sitting
Will achieve fulfillment of all desires and well being.
Presence of the book in the house will keep away
All sort of evil spirits from your way.
This is the magnitude of the treatise
Which can be experienced by faithful devotees.
Only rajhansa birds can rejoice Manasarovar's bliss ... 58

Likewise this composition is for saintly people.
Our land had many saints in the past.
Dnyaneshwar, Mira, Mehta, Kabir,
Nama, Savata, Chokha Mahar,
Gora, Bodhala, Damaji, Ainath at Umbarkhed,
Sakharam at Amalner, Dev Mamaledar,
Yeshwant or Manik Prabhu of Humanabad.
Similar to them is Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon ... 59

My only request to the devotees
Is that they love the saint wholeheartedly.

To enable them to liberate themselves
From the birth and death cycle eternally.
Now I request Shree Gajanan Maharaj
To free me from all my despair.
I have just been your spokesman.
Please show me the right path of salvation ... 60

I hate every thing that is evil.
Let me keep up my routine
Of visiting your shrine till the end of my life.
Let my love for saints stay alive.
Give me the pleasure of residing on the banks of Godavari.
Let me be self sufficient to avoid beggary.
Please ensure that you will be around me
I am at the feet of saints. From you I beseech safety ... 61

O Gajanan! This book narrates happenings
With the inspiration from your blessings.
Ratansa's archives at the monastery
Have been the source of this glorious story.
Nothing here is based on imagination.
I cannot be responsible for omissions and commissions.
Even then if there are any mistakes
I beg your saintly pardon for my sake ... 62

Writing in Marathi was completed by Das Ganu
With blessings of Shree Gajanan Maharaj
In the morning of the first day of the year
Called Pramathi samvastar.
It was Wednesday in the month of Chaitra
Of Shaka One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty One.
It was written at Shegaon
And presented to Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 63

Let this treatise bless the devotees.

jai gajanan

॥ ... Anant Koti Brahmand Nayak ... ॥
॥ ... Maharajadheeraaj Yogiraj ... ॥
॥ ... Parabrahma Satchidanand ... ॥
॥ ... Bhakta Pratipalak Samartha Sadguru ... ॥
॥ ... Shegaon Nivasi Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... ॥

॥ Samapta ... The End ॥



Shree Gajanan Maharaj Samadhi Mandir, Shegaon



Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaha

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan

About, Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon...

The Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan was established in 1908 while Shree Gajanan Maharaj lived in Shegaon. Initially there were 12 trustees, who were drawn from amongst the close devotees of Shree Gajanan Maharaj. The rules and regulations of the Trust framed in the presence of Shree Gajanan Maharaj are followed scrupulously even today. These are the guiding principles on which the trust functions. Selfless service, non-accumulation of wealth, using the donations for the benefit of all people are the cornerstones of this charter. The end towards which all the resources and efforts of the sansthan dedicated is "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaha" - May all beings be happy.

About 75000 devotees on an average visit the temple for darshan. The Sansthan has been carrying out in all 42 activities on the above principles with devotion. 2000 honorary workers and 3500 volunteers render their services in the Sansthan. About 3000 volunteers are in queue at any point of time, eager to render their services to the sansthan. Some of the major activities are

a) The Sansthan promotes educational activities. A residential school for mentally challenged children which has 150 students in its rolls is being run by the Sansthan. The Warkari Shikshan Sanstha imparts spiritual education to 120 male students over a period of 4 years.

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan

b) Medical services are provided to the needy and disadvantaged through free dispensaries and mobile dispensaries which reach remote rural areas in and around Shegaon. A scheme to reimburse medical expenses of those inhabitants of Buldhana district who are below the poverty line covers 13,38,881 people from 1140 villages. Vaccination camps are also organized.

c) Besides these, philanthropic activities carried on include free distribution of food to pilgrims and free commuting facilities around the vicinity of the temple.

d) Keeping in view the nature of the Vidarbha region developmental activity is carried on. Scheme to provide drinking water and fodder in the drought prone areas is undertaken.

e) The Sansthan has developed the Anand Sagar, a garden for rest and recreation which showcases our spiritual tradition. It attracts a growing number of people every year. More than 25 lakh people visited Anand Sagar during the last year.

All the activities of the Sansthan are possible only because of the grace and blessings of Shree Gajanan Maharaj. Over the years his grace is undiminished and continues to touch the lives of a growing number of devotees. The Sansthan is thus an instrument of his divine purpose.