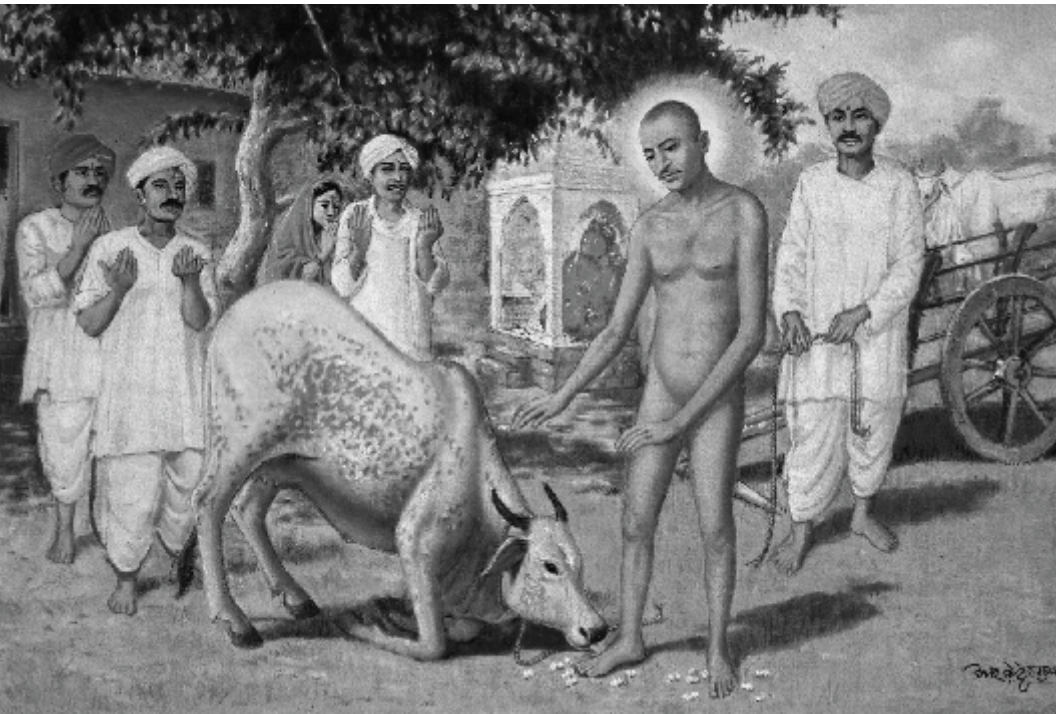


Chapter Ten



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.