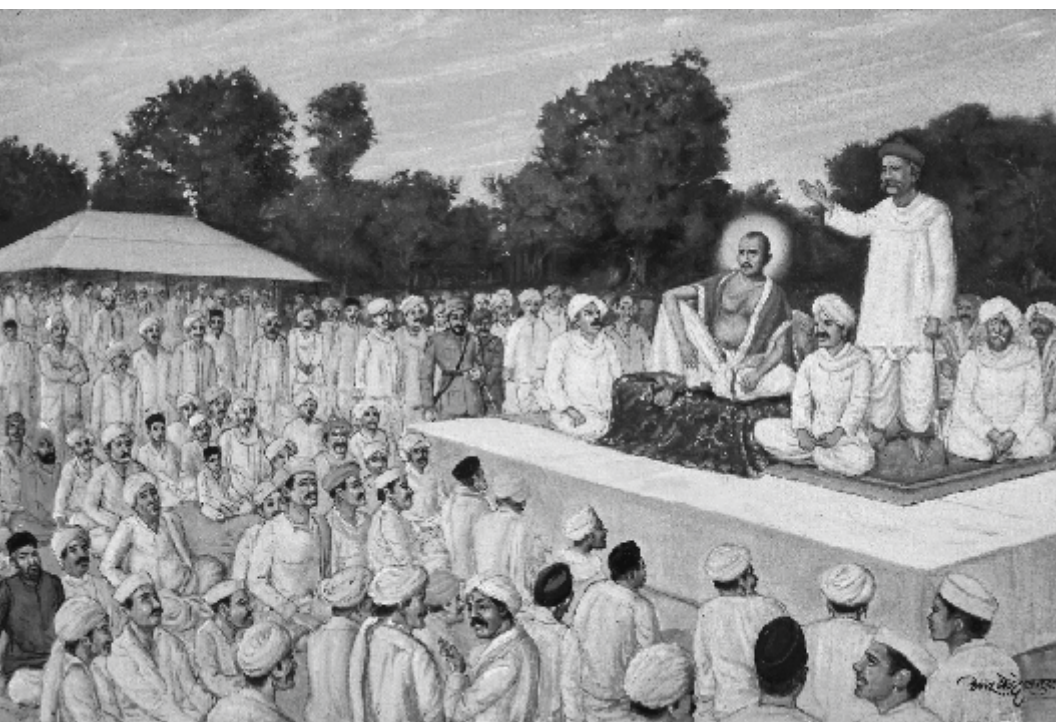


# Chapter Fifteen



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

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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 Shivaji'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

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.