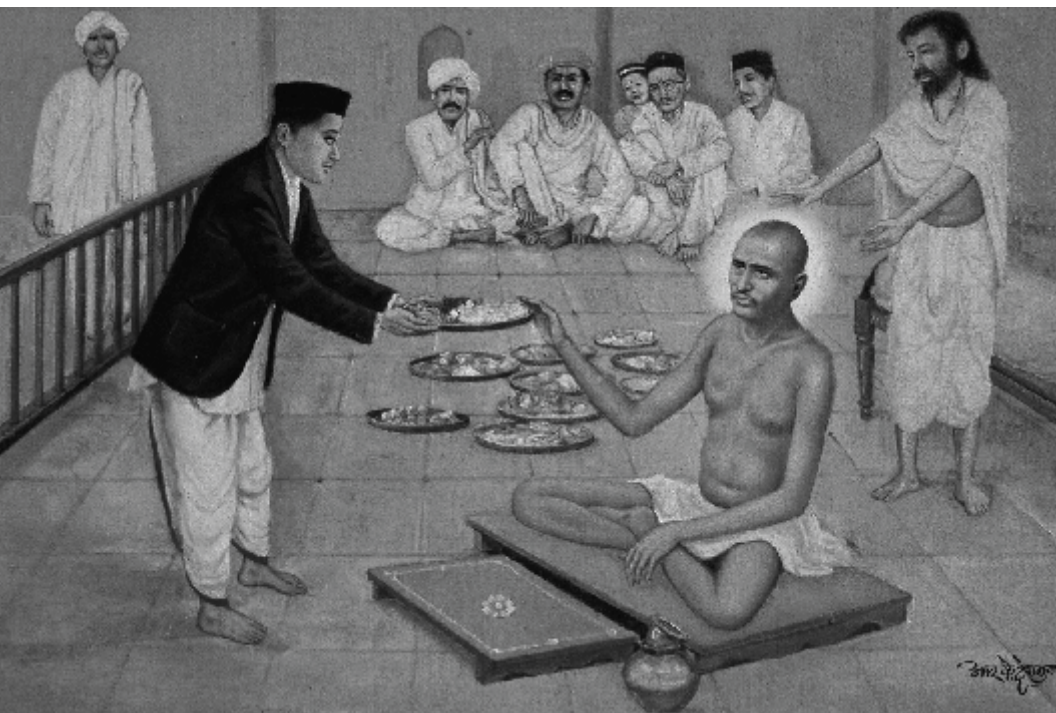


Chapter Sixteen



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.