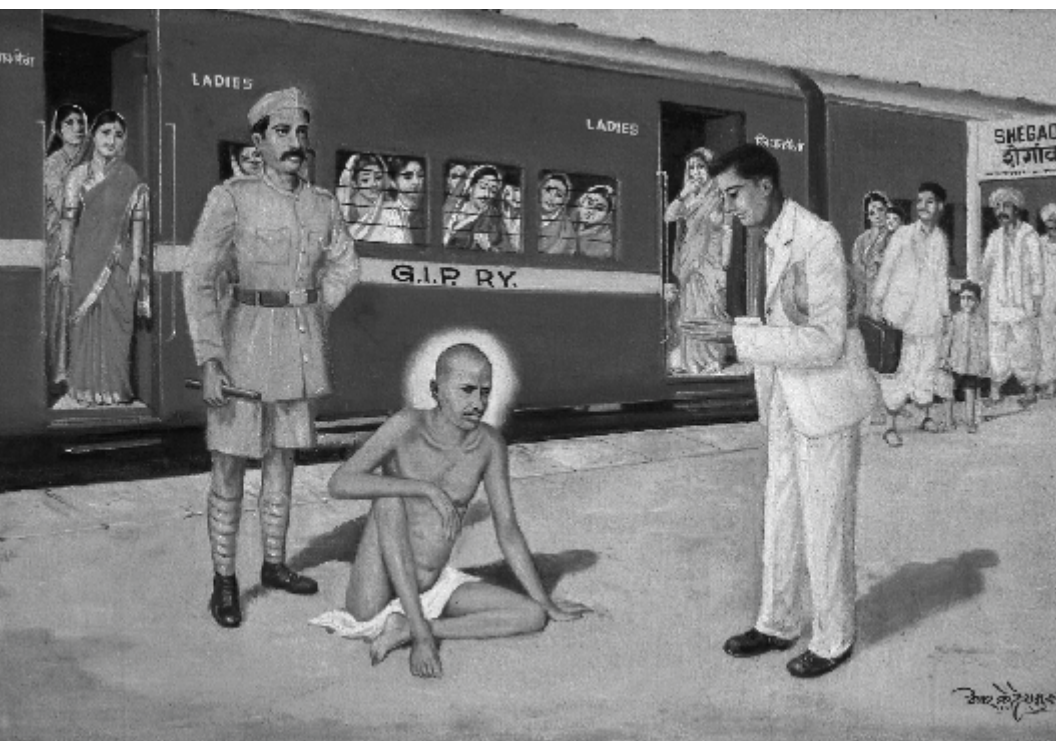


Chapter Seventeen



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 Vamdeoiji.
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