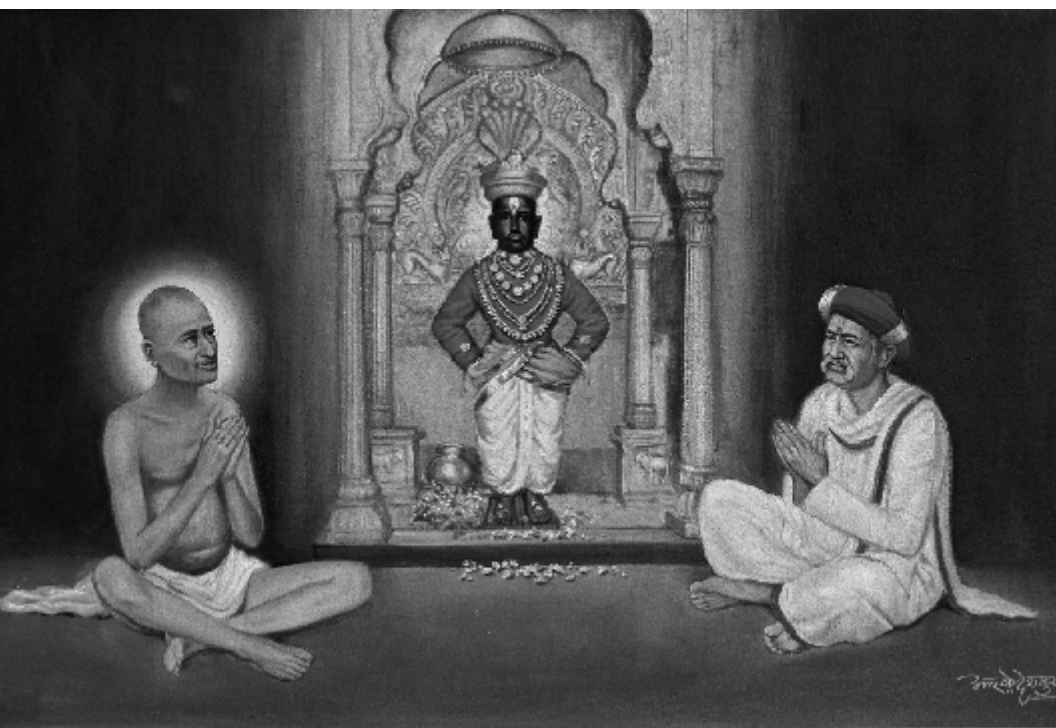


Chapter Nineteen



'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, Akur, ... 31

Uddhav, Sudama, Parth and Vidur
Took Bhakti Marg as their round.
Shree Shankaracharya Guruvār,
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,
Kanhū, 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.