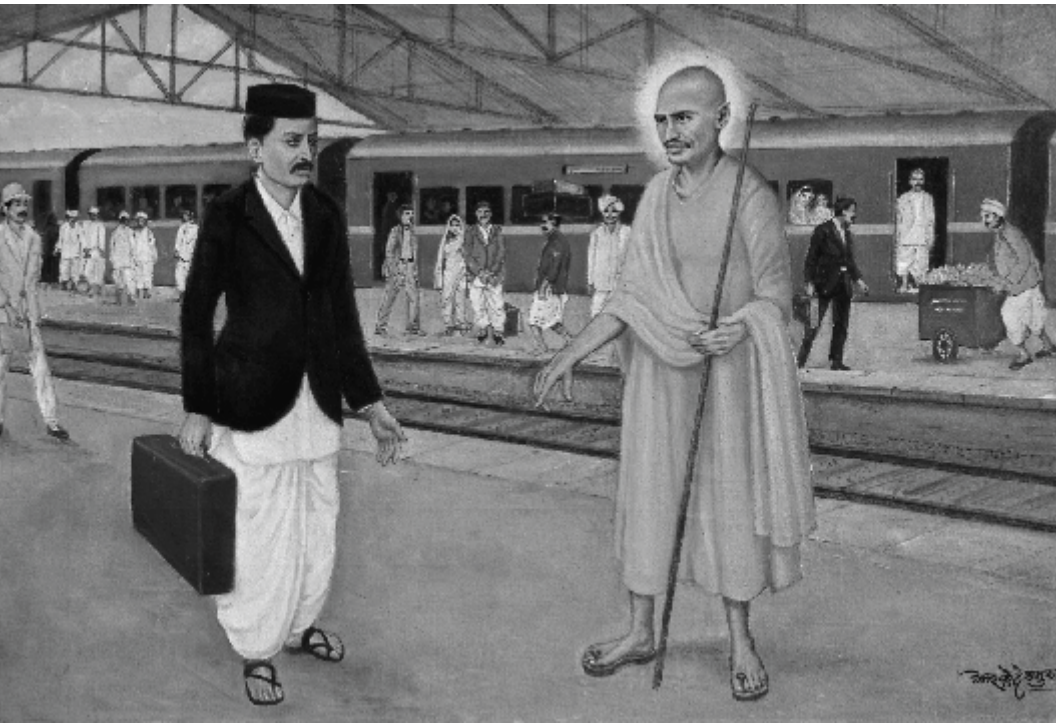


# Chapter Twenty



At the time of returning at Bori Bunder station  
He saw a sage with long arms and concentration.  
He was chanting the name of God  
And slowly he approached Laxman.  
He asked, 'Why do you look so frustrated  
When you are a devotee of Gajanan saint?

## Chapter 20

---

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to you consort of Rukmini  
Resting on the banks of Chandrabhaga River  
Please bless me in this endeavor.  
You are the king of kings, In charge of everything.  
Then why do you ignore me?  
Let your kind grace  
Destroy my sins and anxieties ... 1

Lend me cheer to sing your glory.  
If this way I am not blessed  
It is you who will be solely blamed.  
Such blemish should not come on thee.  
O Shyamsunder, Consort of Rukmini,  
O Pandurang of Pandhapur,  
Vithoba on Chandrabhaga River  
Please fulfill my desire ... 2

After the 'Nirvan' of Shree Gajanan Maharaj  
People said there is nothing left at Shegaon.  
A sea without water or a bower without flowers  
Lose their charm.  
They thought it is useless going to Shegaon  
Like offering flowers at a temple without God.  
So many said that, but it was wrong.  
The invisible flame of Maharaj is still immortal in Shegaon  
... 3

Though Dnyaneshwar Maharaj attained Samadhi  
On the banks of River Indrayani  
He did meet there many devotees.  
Like that Shree Gajanan Maharaj  
Gives darshan to those who come along  
Believing that he exists in Shegaon.  
Here follows the incident of Ganapat Kothade  
A staunch devotee of the great Saint ... 4

Kothade worked as an agent  
At Shegaon Branch of Rayali Company.  
Every evening he would go to the saint's Samadhi.  
He would sit there for some time in meditation  
For mental satisfaction.  
One evening he thought that on Dasera day  
He should perform Abhishek worship  
And offer food to Brahmins at the temple ... 5

He made all arrangements accordingly  
And bought necessary provisions and grocery.  
His wife didn't like it and said,  
'Sir, what are you doing? This is a waste!  
Tomorrow is Vijaya Dashami festival.  
Get new clothes for the children.  
All this spending on Abhishek and Brahmins  
Will not bring you anything ... 6

We have children to feed.  
I don't have an ornament to wear  
Does this befit a house holder?  
We have also to save our future.'  
Ganapat did not like this advice.  
He told her that caring for others  
Ranks higher than demands of domestic life.  
The same night Maharaj appeared to her in a dream ... 7

'Don't harass your husband any more.  
Let him do what he likes.

This would bring you no loss.  
Don't have love and attachment for transient things.  
All the possessions will dissipate.  
Your deeds alone will be never abate.  
Abhishek and feeding are good actions ... 8

These deeds involve sacrifice  
In the form of service to others.  
Expenses on such fetes are never a waste.  
It is like a seed sown in the earth.  
So take my advice. I tell you not to obstruct him.'  
With a counseling like this  
Ended her precious dream ... 9

Next morning she told her husband this  
Who was happy at the occurrence.  
He advised her to have full faith  
In the continuing existence of the Saint.  
He asked her to believe that all things  
Including children, assets and precious gold  
Belonged to Maharaj in his fold  
And she should stop worrying about these ... 10

Ganapat celebrated Dasera with a worship of Maharaj  
And a feast to Brahmins as envisaged.  
His faith in the saint was more sublime  
With these incidents in his life.  
Now to the experience of Laxman Hari Janjal.  
He was a devotee of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.  
He went to Mumbai for some business  
With a mind disturbed by domestic problems. ... 11

At the time of returning at Bori Bunder station  
He saw a sage with long arms and concentration.  
He was chanting the name of God  
And slowly he approached Laxman.  
He asked, 'Why do you look so frustrated  
When you are a devotee of Gajanan saint?

Do you remember the food made on the death anniversary?  
It was for four hundred guests at Amaravati ... 12

That time their teacher Bapat had lost his son  
Yet with Pethkar he did come to partake in the prasad.  
It was due to Maharaj. He had appeared in their dreams  
To say they should join your gathering.  
Have you forgotten all this?  
Laxman was confused with all this rendering ... 13

He wondered who this man could be.  
With respect he bowed to the sage  
Who suddenly disappeared in a moment.  
When Laxman returned he amended his behavior  
And performed the anniversary every year.  
Shree Gajanan Maharaj had met  
Avadhut Jairam Khedkar of Rahit Sahit village  
In the garb of a saint ... 14

Madhav Martand Joshi, a Government Officer  
Once came to Kalamb Kasur village all the way  
For land survey. It was Thursday.  
Being a devotee of Maharaj, He desired to visit Shegaon.  
He told his peon Kutubuddin  
To get ready with the bullock cart ... 15

Kutubuddin humbly told Joshi  
That the weather was nasty.  
'Man' river was flooded with muddy water.  
Ignoring this request Joshi got the cart.  
He asked Kutubuddin to drive to Shegaon.  
This cart entered the river  
And soon was filled with gushing water  
Before they could cross over ... 16

A storm combined with lightning and thunder roared  
Welling the River 'Man's flood.  
Many huts around were uprooted  
Kutubuddin was frightened of death.

Joshi too was scared. He started praying to the Saint  
From amidst this natural calamity.  
With folded hands he said, ... 17

'O Gajanan no one except you can save us now.  
Scriptures describe a sage saving a sinking boat  
By just touching it at the sea.  
You too Shree Gajanan have similar powers.  
Kindly extend your hand and save me.'  
Water entered the cart, and the bullocks got frightened.  
Joshi told Kutubuddin to leave the reins  
And pray to Maharaj to come and help us ... 18

'O powerful Maharaj our lives are in your hands.  
Do as you like. Take us or save us.'  
Reins of the cart were thrown aside.  
Both of them closed their eyes.  
Then a miracle came over.  
The cart had safely crossed the river  
And was standing on the other shore.  
Both of them were glad at the marvel ... 19

They were happy to experience the authority  
Of Maharaj who saved them from the calamity.  
Saved from the dreadful plight  
They reached Shegaon at night.  
They bowed down at the Samadhi.  
After joining the procession Joshi offered money  
To feed Brahmins as per his vow  
And left Shegaon on his routine journey ... 20

Yadav Ganesh Subhedar was a cotton broker at Hingani,  
Once he lost Rupees Ten Thousand in brokerage money.  
His health and well-being dwindled completely.  
He tried his best to re-establish himself  
And recover the loss. But he failed completely.  
During that period he went to Wardha  
To his friend Asirkar  
Where at the door came a beggar ... 21

He was garbed in Maharashtrian attire,  
Had a big stick in his hand and a dirty headgear.  
He was shaking like an old man.  
Looking at him Asirkar got mad  
And yelled out at him to get to the back door.  
There was a chance of getting alms there.  
He said, 'Don't come here anywhere near.'  
The beggar completely disobeyed the order ... 22

He stepped up and sat near Subhedar  
And held his bowl in his front for alms.  
Said, 'Please spare some coins for me if you can.'  
Subhedar wondered at the audacity of the man.  
He stared at the beggar who looked like Maharaj.  
The man had the same gleam in eyes and style of talk.  
The only difference was that this person  
Was shaking with some unknown disturbance ... 23

His features too were like the Saint.  
This made Subhedar think a moment.  
'How can he be the Maharaj  
Who took samadhi long back?  
Whatever be the state  
I will give him money as to the Saint.'  
The beggar took the dole and asked for more  
Reminding him to hand out jaggary as he had vowed ... 24

He said that the loss in business  
Was because of no fulfillment of the commitment.  
Yadav gave him some money but he asked for more  
Yadav spared a handful coins for the old man's bowl.  
At this time Asirkar went inside leaving them alone.  
The beggar said, 'Don't have qualms about the saint.  
Remove your clothes. You are like a son to me.  
All your ailments will vanish as I look at your body' ... 25

The beggar moved his hand over Yadav's person.  
This was the time Asirkar returned.  
The beggar who was there disappeared.

Subhedar tried to locate him thereafter  
But couldn't see him anywhere.  
Yadav guessed that he was Maharaj.  
He thought it was an auspicious augury  
And he would be blessed with lot of money ... 26

His carts loaded with cotton  
Came to Wardha for sale on the same date.  
He got a good profit on his deals that day.  
Yadav then believed that the beggar he met  
Was none other than the Saint.  
Maharaj always protects his devotees.  
The experience of Doctor Kavar next  
Is another story ... 27

Bhau Rajaram Kavar was transferred to Telhara  
From the hospital at Khamgaon.  
Before joining at the new place  
With his family he came to Shegaon.  
After darshan of Maharaj  
He hired a bullock cart.  
Balabhau addressed him  
When he was about to start ... 28

'I request you to leave Shegaon  
Tomorrow after the Prasad.  
You never went away this way  
In all your visits on previous occasions.  
Moreover today is not an auspicious date  
To go on a travel at any rate.  
Kavar seemed to agree to half heartedly  
But left the place as predecided ... 29

The night was drenched in darkness deep.  
He missed the road after he launched on the trip  
And strayed into a narrow path  
Ending at a lake in a barren patch.  
The cart stopped in the woods with no one around  
To guide him out of the unknown ground.



The cartman said they have missed the direction.  
Kavar was surprised but understood the situation ... 30

He abused the cart man for his mistake.  
Thereupon the cart man said,  
'Don't curse me like this.  
I go to Telhara every week  
As far as I think I took the right road  
The bullocks too walked straight on the course.  
I don't know how they came to this lake.  
This is not the path they ever always take.' ... 31

Kavar faintly guessed the cause of the event.  
He thought it to be the action of the Saint  
As he had left Shegaon without Prasad  
And that too ignoring Balabhau's request.  
With folded hands he implored Maharaj  
To protect him and show him the right path.  
Suddenly he heard twinkling bells of bullocks  
Which lent him sufficient courage in the dark ... 32

He asked the cart man to go in that direction.  
This way they reached the road junction.  
Enquiring there they learnt  
That they were still in the Shegaon jurisdiction.  
Kavar asked the cart man to drive back to Shegaon  
Where they reached in the early hours of the morn.  
He told Balabhau what happened on the way  
He said Maharaj disliked their going this way ... 33

'Now take Prasad and go tomorrow.  
No one should refuse Prasad before leaving this borough.  
It is he who has brought you back safe.  
None should expect things to go always his way.  
Whatever the saint's wish will happen  
So have faith in them and don't complain.'  
Next day after taking Prasad  
Kavar left for Telhara by the right path ... 34

A person named Ratansa, Bhavasar by caste  
Had a year old son sick for some time past.  
He had some disease which made him weak.  
Many doctors administered medicines  
But there was no sign of relief.  
He took no milk. High fever made him sick.  
He cried all day long.  
Doctors declared that there was no cure at all ... 35

Ratansa grieved over the child's health.  
Dinkar was almost nearing death.  
His extremities had turned cold,  
Light in his eyes had dulled down most.  
His pulse was missing as a warning note.  
Ratansa brought him to the saint's Samadhi  
And put him there near the divinity.  
He folded his hands and said, ... 36

'O Maharaj! Please save my child.  
If he survives, i will distribute sweets worth Rupees Five.  
You have blessed many devotees.  
I too want to experience such bounty.  
Kindly don't ignore me.  
If my child dies at your gate  
It will bring you a great disgrace.' ... 37

People declare  
That the touch of your feet is like a drop of nectar.  
Please bless me, O protector.  
If my child dies at your door  
I will break my head and live no more.  
O Gajanan a glance of yours is like elixir.  
Please look at us and save the infant.' ... 38

Moments later the child moved and started crying.  
To devotees around it was a miraculous thing.  
It was all due to the grace of Gajanan Maharaj.  
Darkness can never obliterate the brightness of the Sun.  
Dinkar recovered fully as a result of absolute devotion

Which had at its origin in faith and conviction.  
Similarly Dada Kolhatkar was blessed with a son  
By the boundless blessings of Shree Gajanan ... 39

Ramchandra Patil's daughter  
Chandrabhaga who was barely sixteen  
Faced a difficult time at delivery.  
The experience is painful for womanhood generally.  
As per tradition she came from Ladegaon  
To her mother's place for delivery.  
After the child birth she was running temperature  
Which was declared to be typhoid fever ... 40

She was treated by many doctors around  
But the temperature never came down.  
She was taken to Akola for better treatment  
Each one had a different diagnosis for her ailment.  
There was no unanimity of opinion.  
All healings resulted in confusion.  
Patil decided to surrender to Maharaj for treatment.  
And got holy ash and water from the saint's place ... 41

Chandrabhaga applied holy angara to forehead  
And sipped holy tirtha every day.  
She who couldn't walk a step  
Could soon go to the samadhi's steps.  
This was the effect of holy ash and water.  
God always blesses them who have faith in Him.  
Each devotee should have resolute devotion  
In the entity of his worship ... 42

Janakibai wife of Ramchandra had to suffer  
From discomforts predestined for her.  
She had gastric trouble and stomach ache.  
Medications did not give her a break.  
The ailments affected her wits  
And she started acting like a lunatic.  
Her speech even lost clarity.  
At times she lost sense of being hungry ... 43

Some said she was haunted by an evil spirit.  
Some others branded this as a queer disease.  
Some went to the extent of saying  
Patil as an executive had many enemies  
Who retaliated on the family with black magic.  
Medical treatment brought no results.  
Being rich he was exploited by many doctors.  
He spent a lot But got no relief for her ... 44

Tired of all this he then said'  
'Gajanan Maharaj will now be my doctor saint.  
My wife is his daughter in law.  
His blessings will eliminate all the ills.'  
After her bath every morning she circled the Samadhi.  
With this routine and her husband's advice  
Her devotion to Maharaj was not wasted.  
She was cured of all her ailments ... 45

Sincere services to real saints  
Are never wasted but they should be full of faith.  
After Shree Gajanan, Balabhau took his place.  
He performed a few miracles in the town  
And expired on Vaishakh sixth of the waning moon.  
The saint went into the dream of Narayan  
Asking him to replace Balabhau.  
He died in Chaitra on sixth of the waxing moon ... 46

Service to saints is a pious achievement.  
This chance comes only to those with good precedents.  
Legends of Shree Gajanan are beyond measure  
Like the stars in the expanse of these heavens  
Beyond description of ignorant humans.  
The ocean of the saint's life is unfathomable.  
I am just an instrument, the pen which writes.  
The writer has been the Saint divine ... 47

Hope this treatise  
Brings happiness to the devotees.