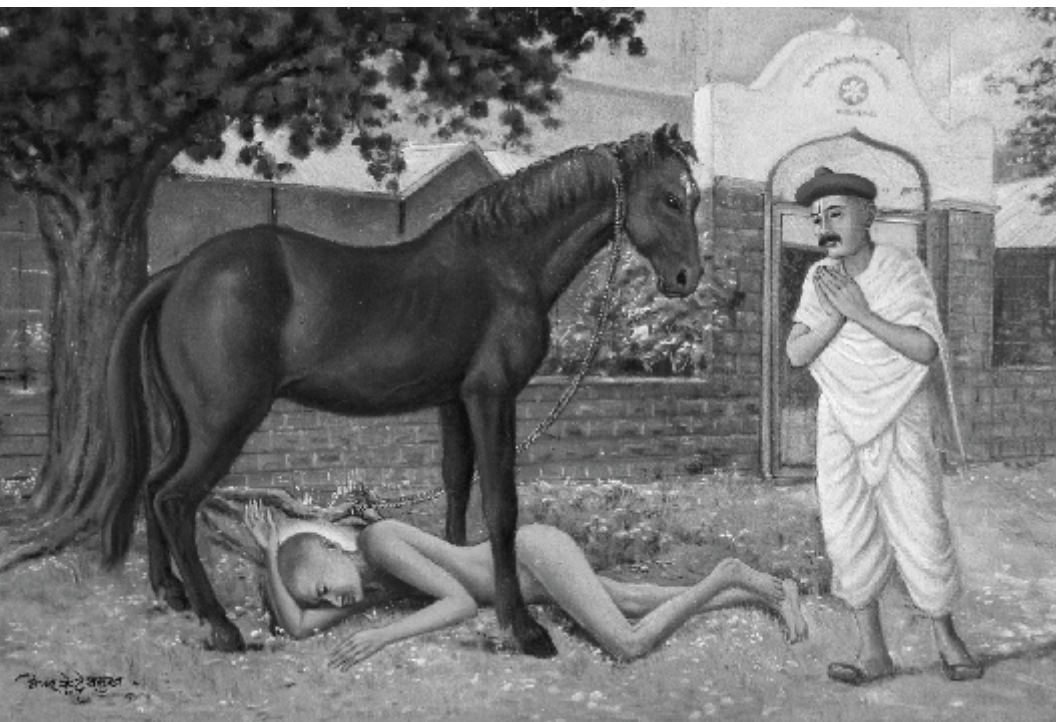


# Chapter Nine



He went to the proximity with great anxiety.  
And was astonished to see  
Someone sleeping under the standing beast.  
When he carefully looked down  
He saw Saint Gajanan on the ground.  
He could now easily decipher  
The reason of the horse being somber

## Chapter 09

---

Shree Ganeshay namah

Consort of Rukhamini  
Residing by the Chandrabhaga River  
Playing flute and blessing the seers.  
You are the savior of all browbeaten,  
A sea of compassion spread all over.  
People who are great radiate inspite of pettiness around.  
Almighty comes into prominence  
Wherein the sinners abound ... 1

You are called the saviour because of us sinners.  
Touchstone gets importance because it turns  
Iron into gold.  
River Godavari is holy because of the tributaries.  
O Madhav, think this over  
And do me a favor.  
Please lend me a helping hand  
To save me from going under ... 2

A famous devotee singing laurels to God  
Once came to offer such prayers at Shegaon.  
This was at Shiva's temple which was ancient.  
An affluent person named Mote had renovated it.  
Nowadays the rich are not fond of temples.  
They like cars, clubs and bicycles.  
Mote was not a person of that sort.  
He was a keen devotee of God ... 3

He renovated the place for the people.  
That's how it was called Mote's temple.  
The singer of hymnes Govindbua Taklikar  
Camped that day at this temple.  
Tying his horse at the front entrance.  
The beast was very rough.  
It kicked people who came close.  
Sometimes it snapped the tied ropes ... 4

Sometimes it sprinted in to the woods.  
It neighed day and night as per its moods.  
It was a package of all bad habits.  
Govindbua had made a special chain to fix it.  
But he forgot to bring it in this visit.  
He got a rope and tied it with a hope  
That it would not cut loose  
While the Bua was resting in the temple ... 5

When it was midnight and the world was plunged in the dark,  
When the nocturnal birds frightened all  
While in search of their daily snatch,  
When the gates of the town were closed  
And dead silence prevailed around  
And not a soul was seen on the road,  
Saint Gajanan came to the site  
Where the horse was tied ... 6

Saints take birth on the surface of this earth  
As ordained by the Creator  
To improve the behavior of hopeless characters.  
Just as medication cures diseases  
The saints helps remove wickedness  
From the misguided masses.  
Saint Gajanan walked to the steed  
And slept in the place under it indeed! ... 7

He recited his favorite hymn  
'Gan gan ganat bote.' All the time.

Saying, 'Understand always  
Soul and Brahma are the same.  
Don't you ever think  
That they are different entities.'  
There are a few variations to the hymn  
Yet the purport is the same sublime ... 8

The horse stood still all the time.  
Bua was always apprehensive  
Of what the horse would do.  
He often got up to check up on its tricks.  
When he saw the horse standing still  
For a moment he thought it was ill.  
This was an unusual scene for Govind  
As never before he saw it so tranquil ... 9

He went to the proximity with great anxiety.  
And was astonished to see  
Someone sleeping under the standing beast.  
When he carefully looked down  
He saw Saint Gajanan on the ground.  
He could now easily decipher  
The reason of the horse being somber ... 10

The horse was quieted down by the saint  
Like the scent of musk subduing bad smell.  
Bua put his head on feet of the saint and said,  
'O saint you are really Gajanan  
Who removes all obstructions.  
I have experienced it today.  
People were scared of its behavior  
Which you have corrected in the colt this way ... 11

It has a habit of jumping and kicking  
While it is walking.  
I was fed up with it and wanted to sell it.  
Unfortunately no one would buy it  
Not even take it for free.  
I am obliged to you for calming it down.

Horse of a preacher like me  
Should be as gentle as it can be ... 12

A tiger is a great danger in a shepherd's house.  
Thus with the influence of Shree Gajanan  
The horse gone off track came to be normal.  
Saint said to the horse, 'Leave your bad habits  
And turn to be a gentle animal.  
You are standing in front of God Shiva  
Behave like a humble bull.  
Now don't try to bother anyone ... 13

The saint went his way after correcting the horse.  
Next day when he was in the garden  
Bua came to see him riding his animal.  
People of Shegaon who knew the horse well  
Said, 'Why did you bring this horse of bad spell?  
It will do harm to the ladies and children.'  
Bua said, 'Now the colt is sober  
Because of the blessings of Saint Gajanan ... 14

Its queer habits have disappeared overnight  
None should now be scared of it.'  
The horse stood free under the tree  
Without a rope or chain.  
This was all due to the blessing of the saint.  
Fresh vegetables and green grass was around  
The horse did not touch them though it was untied.  
See how saints have power to change habits unsound ... 15

Bua praised Maharaj with prayer that follows:  
'No one in the world understands your acts  
Your benediction will guide  
Even a villain to the right path  
You have the power to sense shortcomings.  
Please sanctify me with your kind blessings.'  
So saying Govind bua left for Takli ... 16

People came to Shegaon from far and near  
To see the Saint and fulfill their desires

Among them were two Brahmins from Balapur  
Who pledged to bring heroin on their next tour  
Against the fulfillment of their wishes.  
They knew the saint preferred a smoke over sweets.  
They forgot about the heroin on their next visit.  
They felt shy and vowed double for the next time ... 17

Seeing them again the Saint said to Bhaskar,  
'Look at these people's behavior  
They promise something and don't recall it  
They are Brahmins and should behave as they preach  
That's how the caste has lost its prestige.  
If they vow things and forget it  
How can their desires get fulfilled?  
They better honor their vow before asking God's blessings  
... 18

The Brahmins were extremely hurt  
To hear this sharp remark  
And looked at each other with great surprise  
As to how the Saint could fathom their intent.  
As they saw that the saint knew everything  
About the vows and the subsequent failings,  
They got up to go to the market  
And get heroin as promised to the saint ... 19

Where upon Gajanan's remarks were quick,  
'Why are you crying over split milk?  
I don't have any craze for heroin  
So don't run to the market in vain.  
Only remember one thing  
Keep your promises to deserve God's blessings  
As liars never can achieve them.  
Now go and get it when your desires are fulfilled ... 20

Your wish will be fulfilled next week.  
But remember to come here five times  
For a glimpse of God Shiva the mighty.  
With His blessings God Kuber got wealthy.

Go bow down to Him and do not forget  
To bring heroin on your visit next.  
One should never violate  
Vows made to God and saints.' ... 21

They accordingly bowed to God Shiva in the crowd  
Before returning to their town.  
Next week after their wishes were fulfilled  
They came back with a heroin pack  
As per the promise  
Which was neglected before ... 22

There is another story from Balapur.  
In that town lived Balakrishna, a devotee  
Of Samarth Shree Ramdas Swami.  
His wife Putalabai was a pious lady.  
They used to visit Sajjangad on foot  
The journey used to start in the month of Poush  
With a horse to carry their luggage  
Consisting of a hand rest, Dasbodh and a carpet ... 23

Their piety did not harbour any ego  
The couple collected alms on the way.  
They offered food to God before they ate  
It was one of their journey's traits.  
They used to leave Balapur town  
On the ninth day of Paush in the waning moon.  
He played sandalwood clippers and she the cymbals.  
On their lips they had name of Shree Ram ... 24

They travelled to Sajjangad via Shegaon,  
Khamgaon, Mehakar, Deoolgaon Raja  
Then Anandiswami's abode Jalna  
Further to village Jamb, birth place of sant Ramdas.  
They used to stay there for three days  
Before proceeding to Divara, Beed, Mohori.  
The next stop was Dongaon, birth place of Kalyan  
Who was a devotee of Sant Ramdas ... 25

They touched Narsingpur, Pandharpur  
Natepote Vai, Satara and Shinganapur  
Before reaching Sajjangad in Magh  
On the first day of the waning moon  
To attend the celebrations of Magh Navami.  
As an offering to Sant Ramdas Swami  
They arranged for food for Brahmins  
As far as their finances could permit ... 26

It is really difficult now to find a devotee  
Of his status in the community.  
After the Das Navami event  
They returned to Balapur the way they come.  
This routine continued year after year  
Until Balkrishna reached his sixtieth year.  
At sixty when he started on the return journey  
He sat near the Samadhi of the swami ... 27

With tears in his eyes and sadness in his heart  
He appealed to Sant Ramdas with a humble mind.  
'O all powerful Ramdas, my mentor and guide  
I am getting old now. My age I cannot hide.  
Henceforth I may not be able to walk the distance.  
Even coming on vehicles seems to be difficult.  
I have been following the routine so far  
But it does not seem to be possible hereafter ... 28

As you know good health is an essential thing  
In the observance of any devotional routine.'  
Praying thus Balkrishna fell asleep.  
He saw Ramdas in his dream.  
The saint started speaking to him.  
He said, 'Don't be distressed  
You need not henceforward  
Come to visit this place Sajjangad ... 29

I am much pleased with your devotion.  
You can celebrate the Navami function



In your house from next year onwards.  
I will be there on that day.  
Take this as my promise.  
Be prudent in your expenditure.  
Any expenses on such functions  
Should be within means of the devotee.' ... 30

Balkrishna was happy over the dream.  
He and his wife came back to Balapur in time.  
On the first of Magh in his town next year  
He initiated the function with a fanfare.  
It started with reading of Dasbodh in the morning  
Culminating in prayers in the evening.  
Food was served to Brahmins at lunchtime.  
At dusk an aarati was sung in good rhythm ... 31

During the celebrations all these days  
One thought kept bothering Balkrishna always  
When will the Swami come as promised?  
Will he arrive on the day specified?  
The villagers had contributed cash with zeal  
As per devotee Balkrishna's appeal  
Which saw the function go galore  
In that small town of Balapur ... 32

On the ninth day there was a surprise.  
At noon Gajanan Maharaj appeared at the site  
When Balkrishna and the gathering were offering  
Worship to Ramchandra, the Supreme Being.  
Balkrishna was happy to see the saint  
Yet at the same time he said  
He has been eagerly looking forward  
To the arrival of Swami as per his word ... 33

I don't believe that his promised will fail.  
While these thoughts were to the fore  
Shree Gajanan stood at the door  
And said aloud, 'Jai Jai Raghuveer Samarth.'

A slogan in praise of God Ramachandra.  
He recited lines from 'Psalms of Mind.'  
Saying how the touch of Ram's feet changed a rock  
back to Ahalya and she attained bliss ... 34

These were compositions of Ramdas.  
Balkrishna saw the saint reciting the lines  
Standing there long armed and bare bodied.  
He bowed down and looked up again  
And saw Ramdas in that place.  
Balkrishna was overwhelmed with love and affection  
Of Ramdas in keeping up his assertions.  
His eyes were filled with tears of elation ... 35

A moment later it was the saint  
And then Ramdas Swami again.  
The appearances flipped flopped alternately  
Just like trick scenes in a movie.  
Balkrishna was bewildered  
And could not understand the mystery.  
Saint Gajanan said, 'Be unperturbed  
I am your Ramdas Swami.' ... 36

'I lived in Sajjangad in the past.  
Now I reside in the garden at Shegaon.  
As per promise given to you last year  
I have come to meet you here.  
Don't harbor any doubts in your mind.  
Soul remains the same while bodies change.  
Remember what the Geeta says.  
Come now offer a seat to me.' ... 37

Shree Gajanan Maharaj held Balkrishna's hand,  
Entered the house and sat on the seat called 'pat'.  
The news of saint's arrival spread like wild fire  
Folks flocked at the door to have a glimpse of the seer.  
Balkrishna adored the saint musing over his statement.  
At night Sant Ramdas appeared in his dreams and said,  
'Saint Gajanan is my incarnation.

Harbor no suspicion. It may harm you.  
Worshipping him will win my admiration.' ... 38

After seeing the dream, with great respect  
Balkrishna bowed down to the saint and said,  
'You have removed all my doubts  
By appearing in my dream.  
I am now satisfied with my celebration of Navami.  
Please do me a favor, Stay here for a few days.'  
Which the saint did and went back to Shegaon  
And was not seen by anyone on the way ... 39

May this treatise bring happiness to the devotees.