

THIRD EYE

AN ASTOUNDING EXPERIENCE!

Part - 1



– PARAG SHAH



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YUG DIWAKAR PUJYA GURUDEV
SHREE NAMRAMUNI MAHARAJ SAHEB

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YUG DIWAKAR PUJYA GURUDEV
SHREE NAMRAMUNI MAHARAJ SAHEB

EXPRESSED BY
PARAG SHAH

VALUE: INVALUABLE

AVAILABLE AT



PARASDHAM

Vallabh Baug Lane, Tilak Road, Ghatkopar (E),

Mumbai - 400 077. Tel : 022 32043232

12/2a, Bakulbagan Road, Kolkata - 700 025.

Tel : 98310 67208



PAWANDHAM

Opp. B.C.C.I Ground, Mahavir Nagar, Kandivali (W),

Mumbai - 400 067. Tel : 022 32043232

Old Padara Road, Hathibhai Nagar,

Vadodara - 390 007. Tel : 0265 3293232

SHREE UVASAGGAHARAM SADHANA BHAVAN
4, Africa Colony, Kalawad Rd, Rajkot. Tel : 0281 6548659



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PREFACE

A disciple and His Guru...

When a disciple meets his Guru for the first time...

The rays from the Guru's eyes become an inspiration for the disciple and there begins a journey leading towards Parmatma, the separation of the soul from the body and the realization of one's true identity.

As one embarks on this journey, every step of the way, one will experience the vision and foresight of Gurudev... His Third Eye...

When the normal human being encounters and experiences the Third Eye of Gurudev, his journey becomes a pilgrimage.

An Astounding Experience!



LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

February 14th is celebrated worldwide as Valentine's Day. On this day, people express their feelings for their loved ones. Precisely, nine years and seven months back, on February 14th 2003, I met my mentor, my adviser, my Guru. **Guru is one who is not only worshipped but is also loved passionately.** February 14th 2003 has been the most valuable and memorable day of my life.

I very well remember that day, the time, that auspicious moment when for the first time I met Pujya Gurudev. That interaction is imprinted on my mind and wells up my eyes with joy.

Pujya Gurudev had come to Ghatkopar. At that time, I rarely used to visit the upashraya.

I remember, Jashubhai Bhayani had called home and informed my wife, Mansi, that, "A very intellectual Maharaj Saheb has arrived in Ghatkopar. Do not miss the opportunity of His darshan." Mansi told me about Jashubhai's call. However, I responded, "All Maharaj Sahebs are knowledgeable. There's nothing new about it. I have no desire to go for darshan". Perhaps, I was foolish and egoistic or my meritorious deeds (punya) had not yet surfaced. In the next 2 to 4 days, I heard about Gurudev from many people. Everyone used to insist, "Paragbhai, you should go for darshan at least once." I remember how egocentric I was. Since everyone was so insistent, I thought of going to Namramuni Maharaj Saheb the next morning with my wife, Mansi.

Mansi was eager for His darshan, hence, she got ready early. I was in no rush, hence took my own time. Meanwhile, every few minutes, Mansi would ask me to speed up. Finally, I lost my temper and told her, "I do not want

to come. You may go, if you wish to." Mansi insisted that I go with her but my pride overruled my desire to offer veneration and I didn't go! **Mansi** accompanied by my mother, **Indiraben**, proceeded to the upashraya.

Gurudev was at the upashraya in Cama lane, Ghatkopar (west). Mansi bowed down with reverence and took her seat along with 10 to 15 people who were already seated before Gurudev. Just then, Gurudev looked at Mansi and smilingly said, "We cannot force anyone to come for darshan. One should have faith to come for darshan." Mansi was perplexed and confused. She began to wonder how did Gurudev know? After a while, Gurudev told Mansi, "Now, call your husband, he will come." Knowing my nature, Mansi replied, "Gurudev, he is very short tempered. There is no chance that his 'no' will change to a 'yes'." Once again, Gurudev smiled and said, "Let's see, who knows your husband better, you or me?" Mansi called me and asked if I

could come for darshan? I had already reached office, but I do not know what happened and although it was against my nature, I told Mansi, I would reach in 10 to 15 minutes. I reached the upashraya after half an hour. About 25 to 30 people were seated before Gurudev. I saw Gurudev for the first time. He looked at me as though he had known me for a long time and then silently notified my arrival to Mansi. I began to wonder, how did he recognise me? Mansi was puzzled too, "How does Gurudev know Parag?"

My punya had risen. The auspicious moment had arrived. Gurudev's and my eyes... our eyes met. My eyes were fixed on Him and I felt as though Parmatma was standing in front of me. There was a strong turbulence in my heart. I strongly believe that the feelings that I had that day must have been similar to those that Gautama Swami had when he saw Parmatma Mahavir. I bowed to Gurudev and sat down. My eyes were fixed on Him.

Suddenly, tears were rolling down my eyes. I did not know the reason for my weeping, yet I could not stop the tears. I met Gurudev for the first time, yet felt a strong bonding, a deep intimacy and closeness with Him. It felt as though I had been born here only to meet Him. **I felt like I knew Him since many years. No! No! Not many years, but since many births.**

I kept gazing at Him. His hair had been pulled off (keshlochan), His head was shining, His face was beaming with a bright lustre and prowess. I could not utter a word, just kept gazing at Him and Gurudev also kept looking at me. His eyes were telling me, "I have recognized you, haven't you recognized me?"

Our silence was giving a message... It was saying something. I could not comprehend what was happening with me. I did not want to understand. I felt something unusual... I felt good! I wanted those feelings to continue. I sat silently before Gurudev. Many

people were coming for His darshan and offering prayers with reverence and respect (vandana). On seeing Gurudev, despite the feeling that I had met God, and having the highest regards and feelings for Him in my heart, I did not do vandana. What a sinful soul was I! I did not bow to Gurudev! On reflecting, today I feel ashamed of myself - what an egoistic soul was I! Although God had arrived in the form of my Gurudev before me, I did not have the modesty and humbleness to bow down and do vandana. He did not speak anything nor did I utter a word. There was silence at both ends.

After a while I took Gurudev's permission to return to my office. He did not say anything, but His eyes were showering blessings on me and indicating to me that this day is the most auspicious day of your life and this moment is the best!

I returned to my office. What would happen now? Where would my mind wander?

Whom would I be thinking about? Whose image would float in front of my eyes? Whom would I want to meet again? Whose presence and fragrance could I smell again and again?

GURUDEV! GURUDEV! GURUDEV!

It was a different experience for me. All day, I saw only Gurudev in everything and everywhere, and I loved seeing Gurudev. Even in my wildest dreams I could not have imagined my state of mind being so elated and different. **By evening, an arrogant, short tempered, who was egoistic about the wealth and riches he possessed, had become mild and sober.** I could hear my heart pounding and I was filled with feelings of gratitude. I thanked God for His wonderful blessings. My heartbeat increased and my soul and mind were grateful to God, for with His blessings, I had found my Guru, my charioteer, my mentor, a true friend, the benefactor of my soul and my liberator. I

found my companion and Guru to share my happiness and sorrow. **My Guru** who is with me at all times and imparts His strong support especially, in difficult times.

On the same day, I had a late night meeting at Breach Candy. I left home at 9pm. I must have driven couple kilometers and I had a sudden urge to go for Gurudev's darshan. Although, I was running late for the meeting, the wheels of my car took a U-turn. For the first time in my life, I must have gone to the upashraya in the evening. I was a bit hesitant - I did not know what to talk with Gurudev, what if He does not like my going at this time, yet as though I was being pulled by a strong magnetic force, I reached there. It must have been around 9.15 pm. It was very quiet in the upashraya, no one was around and only Piyushmuni was reading something. I expressed my wish to do Gurudev's darshan to Piyushmuni. However, Gurudev had gone to sleep, hence, I could not do His darshan and left for the meeting.

I must have driven 2-3 kilometers when again I experienced a strong desire for Gurudev's darshan. I could not comprehend what was happening to me. Again I took a U- turn, went back to the upashraya and pleaded to Piyushmuni, "I will not disturb Gurudev, it will just take a minute for me to do His darshan."

Piyushmuni looked at me in astonishment and gave me permission to go into Gurudev's room. Fortunately, the room door was open. I quietly peeped inside. Gurudev was sleeping in peace, I bowed to Him. I did not realise what was happening to me, but whatever was happening, I loved that moment!

I was standing still, when Gurudev opened His eyes and on seeing me, He steadily sat up. I bowed down with reverence. Gurudev said, "At last you have arrived, I have been waiting for you. I did not realise when I fell asleep." I began to think, I was not going to

come. Surely, Gurudev has mistaken me for someone else. However, I did not clarify and quietly sat before Him. We did not talk much but I felt He was communicating with His eyes and conveying many messages to me. When I stood up after ten minutes, Gurudev said, "We've met after a long time. Why are you in such a hurry? Sit for some time."

Now, I definitely felt that Gurudev had mistaken me for someone else. I clarified saying that, "Gurudev! I am Parag Shah. We just met today morning. You are probably waiting for some other person."

Gurudev replied, "I know, and I am talking about you. If you try to recall, you will remember that **we have met before... we have met and lived together in many previous lives...**" I could not understand anything, but the feelings that arose in my heart are indescribable. I was in tears. After five minutes, I stood up to take Gurudev's leave, "Gurudev! I had a meeting in Breach

Candy at 10 pm. It is already 10.15 pm and I am yet in Ghatkopar. I will now have to leave as I will be too late.”

Giving me permission, Gurudev said, **“You will not be late. You will reach Breach candy before time.”** I left and like a fool laughed at Gurudev’s wisdom... I will be late by more than an hour for the meeting and Gurudev says that I will reach before time! I reached Breach Candy at 11.10 pm. I was waiting for the lift when the person whom I was to meet arrived from outside and said, “Sorry, Sorry, I was held up in a traffic jam and hence, got delayed. My mobile battery was low and thus, I could not inform you.” Immediately, Gurudev’s words came to my mind-- You will reach on time. I then realized the importance of Gurudev’s words.

I returned home after the meeting but could not sleep and spent the night in restlessness – only one thought kept flashing in my mind – where, in which birth and in which form

have I met Gurudev?

Next day, late in the evening, I went for Gurudev's darshan. Gurudev asked me, "When will you take me to sanctify your house (pagla)?" I was delighted and said, "Whenever you say". Gurudev said that He would come at His convenience after 3 to 4 days. I left from there and immediately called Mansi and informed her that Gurudev had said that He will visit our house...we will be blessed by His divine visit (pagla). Mansi could not believe her ears. Her response was, "Only after requesting several times, does Gurudev agree to (do pagla) sanctify one's house and He told you on His own that He will come to our house? You must have misunderstood." I did not want to argue so I told her that we will go together in the morning to Gurudev and ask Him.

That night, I woke up suddenly at 2.30 and **felt Gurudev was standing in front of me.** Then I thought it was an illusion as in those

days I saw Gurudev everywhere and as I was sleepy, I covered my head, crept under the blanket and went back to sleep.

In the morning, Mansi and I went for Gurudev's darshan. Before we could say anything, he said, "Your house is nice. I had come yesterday, now I don't need to come again." Mansi and I were bemused. Gurudev then drew a plan of my house and showed it to us to prove that He had come. He then said, "I did wake you but you covered your head and went to sleep." I was completely mystified and baffled !



'EGO'
SKIP THE 'E' AND LET IT 'GO'

After a couple of days, I went to Mundra in Kutch for work and had to stay there for 3 to 4 days. Mansi called me in Mundra and told me that the next day there was a meditational chanting - jaap of Shree Uvasaggaharam Stotra. An uchchamani (bidding for religious / humanitarian cause) would take place for the divine frame and we should take the benefit of the bid. I agreed with her as I thought that the highest bidding amount would be around Rs 10,000. Just then, Mansi called saying that the bidding may go up to Rs. 25,000 - 30,000. I also agreed to that amount. By evening, Mansi anxiously called 4 to 5 times as she was worried that if the bidding

amount increases, what should she do? Her thoughts were very pure, but for me it was just a speculation. I told her, **"Whatever the amount is, our reputation must be held high.** Just bid the highest and take the frame." It was a matter of status!

The next day, Mansi called me and with great excitement said that we were blessed with the frame. She then asked me to guess the bidding amount. I estimated it to be approximately Rs. 4 lakhs. But to my astonishment, she said, **"Gurudev gave the frame to me without any bidding."**

After 2 days, on my return from Mundra, I went for Gurudev's darshan and asked Him the reason for giving the frame to Mansi without any bidding. Gurudev explained to me that, "If you want to take home some divine, holy article, then your thoughts while bidding must be pure and holy. Mansi's thoughts were pure but you wanted to create an impression by bidding the highest

amount. You had an ego because of which your feelings would become impure. Thus, inspite of a divine, pure item coming into your house, you would not get any peace through it. Hence, there was no bidding for it." I realised my mistake and asked Gurudev for forgiveness. I decided that henceforth, in any bidding, I will never have such thoughts of creating an impression. **Spirituality is for nullifying the ego and not for increasing it.**

It was only when Gurudev explained that I comprehended that even such thoughts lead us to binding sinful karmas.

Now, every day it became a norm to go for Gurudev's darshan. In fact, I used to become restless till I didn't do darshan. Wherever, Gurudev went, I used to go for darshan. I developed such intimacy and bonding with Gurudev, that He became my mother, father, brother, friend... everything. **For me, Gurudev was everything, my entirety.**

My life and my lifestyle began to change.

My relatives and friends were amazed to see me going for Gurudev's darshan. **The society is strange – they cannot readily accept even a positive change or someone changing for good.** Many people told me that it is alright to go for Maharaj Saheb's darshan but not to get too close with Him. Some even asked me, "How did you get entrapped with this 'baba'?"

These words did not deter me. I was clear of my path and goal. I had found my Guru, my liberator, who has always given me peace, happiness, love and taught me the right way of living. He has shown me the right path to improve, not only this birth but even my future births.

Gurudev! I am very thankful and grateful to you for if you had not come into my life, this soul would have been in a bad state – perhaps falling into hell. Even thinking about a life without you, sends shivers down my spine!



ITS ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS

Gurudev was on His vihaar from Ghatkopar to Andheri. Some of us decided to accompany Him. We left early morning from Ghatkopar. While walking, all of a sudden, Gurudev said, **"Let me tell you a story."** I was happy to hear that... It would make the journey to Andheri smoother!

There was a king who was very happy and prosperous. He took good care of his subjects and kept them happy. Every word he uttered was taken as a command and obeyed respectfully. The king was happy with one and all – the ministers, queens, people and his army. One day, he woke up early morning from a dream that he had seen. The dream was hazy in his mind as it

had disturbed him from his sleep. He could not concentrate anywhere, he did not know the reason... he was bewildered! He felt a vacuum... all of a sudden something seemed to be missing in his life. He began to wonder, he had everything at his disposal but what could be missing? He kept thinking... but could not find an answer. Then, gradually he realized he was not happy. Happiness was missing! What kind of pleasure was he looking for? How will the soul experience bliss? So, the ministers decided to make an announcement, "The one, who makes the king happy, finds the cause of king's restlessness and fills up the vacuum will be awarded 1000 gold coins." The announcement was made far and wide.

Actors, players and dancers performed different shows to make the king happy. Magicians performed fascinating magic shows but none of these pleased the king. In fact, this upset him even more and he

became gloomier. The merchants opened their treasury but the king did not desire any further wealth. The kings of the nearby kingdom sent proposals of their daughter, but the king had many queens who kept him happy.

People kept asking the king the cause of his sorrow and distress, but in vain. What would the king answer when he himself did not know the cause of his unhappiness? From his dream, he only remembered seeing a Jain saint and a pair of swans.

One day, a Jain saint happened to pass from the neighboring village. It was almost evening, so the saint requested a cowherd to let him stay for the night and also give him alms. The cowherd asked the saint, "What will I get in return for allowing you to stay the night in my house and making provisions for your food. Will you give me gold coins?" The saint smiled and said, "Brother, where will a saint get gold coins from? But, I can show

you the path to the treasury.” On hearing this, the cowherd agreed to let the saint stay the night in his house.

At night, the cowherd asked the saint to show him the path to the treasury. The saint replied, “First, I will tell you a nice story and then show you the road to the treasury.” The cowherd agreed and got engrossed in listening to the story. However, before the story ended, the cowherd was asleep. When he woke up in the morning, the saint had left. The cowherd thought, how times have changed. Even the Jain saints do not keep their promise. He left without showing the road to the treasury. He felt deceived!

On the other hand, the king was becoming more and more restless. All means and techniques to please the king were futile. The search for the missing link was on. The award amount was now raised to 10,000 gold coins.

The cowherd had liked the story told by

the saint. He made a song of the story and to earn a living, he decided to go to the neighboring village and sing the song. When he reached the neighboring village, he heard the king's men announcing the prize money of 10,000 gold coins. It was as though they were showing the cowherd the path to the treasury. The cowherd thought of trying his luck. He went to the palace and told the king, "O king, may be you are missing music in your life. If you permit me, I will sing a song and try to please you." The king gave him permission and the cowherd began singing the song he had made from the saint's story.

The song was about the seven births of two brothers. In the first life, they were born as brothers belonging to the Kshatriya creed. In the second life, they were swans. In the third, they were born as elephants and in the fourth as celestial beings of devlok. They were in nagalok (abode of the snakes)

in the fifth life and in the sixth, they were both born as human beings and had become Jain saints. The cowherd described the six births in details. The king, on hearing the cowherd's song, remembered his dream. It was his dream which the cowherd had narrated in the form of a song. The king was extremely happy and was now eager to hear the seventh birth. He took the cowherd to the royal treasury and said, "You can take whatever you wish from this treasury but quickly tell me about the seventh birth of the two brothers." With folded hands, the cowherd pleads the king, "O king! I only know the story of 6 births. I had fallen asleep before hearing the story of the seventh birth. Hence, O king! Please forgive me, I cannot complete the song."

The king gave the cowherd 25,000 gold coins instead of 10,000 as announced and requested him, "Now, tell me about the seventh birth." The cowherd confessed

the truth to the king that a Jain saint had told him this story and that he had fallen asleep while hearing the story. Therefore he did not remember the 7th life. The saint had left while he was asleep. The saint had mentioned that he would be travelling towards the north.

Immediately, the king sent his soldiers to look for the saint. But, how would they find him as nobody knew his name? The cowherd told the king that the saint had agreed to show him the path to a treasury if he allowed the saint to stay in his house for the night. The soldiers made another announcement, "Our king is eagerly waiting for the saint who spent a night in a cowherd's house and told him a story. It is a request to you to please come to the palace." On hearing this announcement, the saint changed his course and walked towards the palace.

Gurudev left the story at this point and suddenly began walking fast. Gurudev

walked so fast that I had to run after him. My palpitations had increased on hearing the story so far. I had become restless like the king. I was curious to know the rest of the story so I began running to catch up with Gurudev. Gurudev's swiftness in walking was like the wind. With great difficulty, I caught up with Gurudev and then pleaded, "Gurudev! Please, quickly tell me the remaining story. I am eager."

Gurudev enjoys teasing me and even I like it. There must be very few devotees whom Gurudev must be teasing and I was one of them. I consider it as Gurudev's special gift and enjoy it. "Gurudev, please tell the remaining story." **At that time, I was 33 years old but behaved like a 3 year old, eager to listen to the rest of the story.**

At last Gurudev continued with the story...

As the saint entered the kingdom, the king felt a strange tremor in his heart. He could

smell a soothing fragrance in the air as though it was announcing the arrival of the saint. The king was eagerly waiting for the saint. His eyes were fixed on the entrance of the palace. The people were wondering – why is their intelligent king so apprehensive to hear a story?

The king was anxious to hear something more than a story.

Just then, a soldier informed the king about the Jain saint approaching the kingdom. The king almost jumped off the throne and headed with haste towards the gate of the palace. Just as he reached the gate, the saint arrived. He bowed down and did vandana. How did a kshatriya king know Vandana which is followed by Jains? The king himself was astonished. Tears began to roll down his cheeks. He got up and embraced the saint and said, “We are meeting after so many years. Why did you leave me and go away?” The king had seen their previous six births

in his dream and the cowherd reminded the king of his dreams by narrating them in the form of a song. The king was extremely happy as he had met his brother of the previous births. They were connected since many births!

The king took the saint to the palace and offered him a seat as per his convenience. But the saint asked permission from the king to leave. With folded hands, the king requested the saint, "Why do you want to leave? I have everything - kingdom, wealth, happiness, luxury... whatever is mine belongs to you. You can now enjoy the royal throne with me." The saint smiled and said, "Brother, you may be right in your way, but I am a Jain saint and I have renounced all worldly luxuries. I do not require these things." The king asks the saint, we have been together for the past six births, why can't we be together in this life?

The saint replied, **“We can stay together in this life too. Will you come with me?”**

After this, Gurudev again increased his walking speed. Andheri was now just a few kilometres away. I was so engrossed in listening to the story that I did not realise we had already walked almost 10-15 km. Again, I ran behind Gurudev and said, Gurudev, we have almost reached Andheri. Please complete the story. I am very anxious to hear it. But, Gurudev, kept walking silently. I felt like I was a part of the story. **I saw myself as the king and Gurudev as the Jain saint.** I placed Jashubhai, the first person to inform us about Gurudev’s arrival, in the form of the cowherd.

My heart was pounding! I was anxious to hear what happened in the seventh life. Gurudev said, “This is only a story.” But I realised that indirectly, Gurudev was conveying some message. I felt like I was in the same state as that of the king. I pleaded, “Gurudev,

please, at least tell me about seventh life of the saint and the king?” Gurudev replied, “I have narrated the six births of the past. The seventh birth is the present. The saint has fixed his path in the seventh life. Will the king join the saint or continue to enjoy the royal throne? **That part of the story is for you to complete.**” With this, I began to understand the purpose of my life.



CRACK THE JACK

One day, Gurudev visited our house. We requested Him to grace us by having gochari (alms - a saints meal) at our house. Gurudev accepted our request. That way I am lucky, sometimes, Gurudev listens to few of my requests but, makes me obey more... we are always at an advantage when we obey Him.

Gurudev is afraid of dogs. We had a pet Labrador. Before coming to my house Gurudev had inquired, "I hope the dog won't bark at me?" I replied, "Gurudev, he is very quiet. He does not bite or bark at anyone and besides you are my Guru! He will never bark at you." Gurudev entered our house and we all paid our homage by doing vandana. Jack, our dog, got agitated on seeing Gurudev

with a muhapatti and started barking at Him and was ready to pounce on Gurudev at any moment. With great difficulty we caught him, calmed him and asked forgiveness from Gurudev. Later on, Jack also mellowed down.

For some time, Gurudev blessed us with His divine words. It was lunch time! So, humbly we all offered gochari (alms) to Gurudev. Jack was sitting next to me peacefully and at regular intervals looked at Gurudev. Gurudev went into another room for gochari. Assuming that it would take at least ten minutes before Gurudev comes out, we also decided to eat. However, we forgot Jack! What would have happened?

We had trained Jack that if any guest or a new person comes home, he should not let them go anywhere beyond the drawing room. Now, Gurudev had gone alone into our room to have His meal.

When Gurudev had entered and Jack was barking, I had shouted at him and told him to be quiet. He must have remembered that, so, now, without barking he quietly sneaked into the room where Gurudev was and sat in front of Him.

Gurudev was all alone with such a dangerous dog! Gurudev got frightened and began perspiring but He had read that animals can sense your vibrations and can sense your fear. Hence, Gurudev remained calm. He gave 3 to 4 pieces of bread (bhakhri) to Jack from His bowl. Jack was lucky and enjoyed eating from Gurudev's bowl. Now, he sat right opposite Gurudev.

Gurudev thought of calling out to me but then He realised that if He calls out loud, then Jack could get angry. So Gurudev did not want to take chances and was tensed. Gurudev waited quietly in the room with Jack. After a while, I suddenly noticed that Jack was missing. We looked for him

everywhere but he was nowhere to be found. We did not imagine in our wildest dreams that he would be in company of Gurudev. We thought, perhaps the driver must have taken Jack to the garden. Few minutes passed, I asked Gurudev from outside, "Gurudev, do you require anything?" Gurudev felt relieved! Immediately, He called me, "Parag, come inside." I went in and saw Jack sitting near Gurudev. Seeing Gurudev's expression and plight, I immediately took Jack out of the room and begged Gurudev for forgiveness.

Learning occurs every moment in the presence of a Guru. Every action of His, is an inspiration! This incident proved that though I had a pet dog since many years, yet I did not know the reason why he would bark at an outsider especially on those who were frightened. I learnt other animals also sense outsiders. Gurudev taught us that if we are attacked or encounter an animal and if we remain calm, the animal will not trouble us

or harm us in anyway. If we remain calm and composed, the animal surely does not harm or hurt us.

An illness took away my Jack's life. However, I have a strong feeling that **a being which could eat with Gurudev, from His bowl, with His hands must have surely been blessed with a life in the heaven (Devgati).**



ITS NOT MAGIC, YET MIRACULUOUS

Luck favoured me once again. Gurudev's chaturmas was once again fixed at Parasdham in 2007. Since it was not raining and Gurudev was at another Gurubhakt's house close to my house, I requested Gurudev to sanctify my house too. While walking to my house from there, I requested Gurudev to stay for 3 to 4 hours. Gurudev said, "I think it will rain. I will have to leave immediately." At that time it was sunny. I did not utter a word but thought to myself, "The sky is absolutely clear then, why is Gurudev saying it will rain?"

We were blessed to have Gurudev come to our house. In fifteen minutes, He got up saying He will have to leave as it would soon begin to rain. I looked at the sky. It was a bright sunny afternoon and less likely

to rain. I wanted Gurudev to stay longer, so I forced Him to stay for at least another 10 minutes. "Gurudev, it is sunny, why are you in such a hurry?" Gurudev said, **"In the next five minutes it will rain.** I should leave so that I can reach my destination." I was surprised, "The sky was clear with bright sunshine, then, why is Gurudev talking about rain?" I did not listen to Him and forcefully made Him stay longer.

After five minutes, the sun disappeared, the sky became dark and cloudy and it began to pour. Indicatively, Gurudev looked at me. You did not listen to me! But, Gurudev did not know, that internally, even I was praying for heavy rains so that Gurudev could spend more time with me. I was very happy as it began pouring and told Gurudev, "Good! Now you will have to stay here." To which Gurudev replied, "It will stop raining, now" and taking His patra (bowls) and rajoharan in His hand He was ready to move. I asked Gurudev, "Will You walk in this heavy rain?"

Gurudev said, **"The rain will have to stop for five minutes** else it will not stop raining until night" and quickly He started walking down the stairs. I ran after Him. It was raining heavily. We reached the ground floor from the 13th floor and Gurudev lifted His right hand towards the sky and said: "Let's leave quickly. We will have to reach in five minutes." I was astonished. Within two seconds it stopped raining and we began walking quickly. In four and a half minutes, we reached the house of the Gurubhakt where Gurudev was to stay. Gurudev said, "In twenty seconds it will begin pouring for 4 to 5 hours." And as though the rain was awaiting Gurudev's permission, at the twentieth second the clouds burst out. "Was this some super power controlling the rain?"

I believe this because the incident occurred in my presence. I was an eyewitness to this miraculous incident which, otherwise, would have been hard to digest, else in this scientific age, who would believe this?



UNDER YOUR GRACE

Once, my wife, Mansi took our son, Vatsal to worship Gurudev for the first time. This was after about 10 to 15 days from the time when we met Gurudev for the first time. Vatsal was six years old then and we had noticed that he would get a squint eye every time he fell ill which, otherwise, seemed to be normal.

Gurudev saw him and continued looking at him for a long time and then told Mansi, "He has a problem in the eye, have him checked by a good eye specialist." Mansi replied that we have already had him diagnosed and that the doctor had said that he would be fine as he grows older. His eyes would be completely normal. Gurudev was not satisfied with this

answer and He insisted that **we go to a good doctor and have his eyes checked up without wasting any further time.**

I fixed an appointment with the doctor and we were in deep shock when the doctor bombarded us, "How could well educated parents like you be so careless? You have failed as parents...Vatsal needed an immediate surgery! In fact, he should have been operated some 4 to 5 years back! We had lost a lot of time. He further told us that, "At this stage, even if we operate the success rate may not be 100%." We took the decision at an instance and fixed a date after three days. We informed Gurudev about this, but He disagreed to that date and gave us an alternate date which was 10 days later. So, respecting His agnya we had the dates changed.

The evening before Vatsal's operation, I was with Gurudev at the Vasai Manekpur upashraya. I was very apprehensive and

stressed about the surgery which was to take place the next day. Seeing me in that state, Gurudev consoled me saying, "Who encouraged and arranged Vatsal's operation? If it is me, then it is my responsibility to see that it goes off well. All will be fine so you don't worry."

I replied, "Vatsal is only 6 years old and the doctor has advised that 24 hours prior to the operation he should stop intake of any water or food. How will he manage?" Gurudev very calmly told me, "You don't worry about that, he shall be fine. It's my responsibility. Vatsal will not ask for food or water." To our amazement, Vatsal did not express being hungry or thirsty till the next day. In fact, he went happily to the hospital as if he was going on a school picnic. All the way, till we reached the hospital he kept saying, "Dad, from today my eyes would be alright." The operation was scheduled for 10 am so we got him admitted by 8 am. In the meantime, the nurse arrived and informed

us that Doctor would be arriving around 9:45 a.m and the surgery would take about 20-30 minutes. Around 9am I received a message from Gurudev, "Parag, the hospital is good and the operation theater is well equipped." I was astounded as to whether Gurudev was asking me or informing me because he was in Vasai upashraya and the hospital was situated at Mumbai Chowpaty. I kept mum, and then Gurudev gave me the precise details of the surgery, from the time of start to end. He indicated that the operation would start at 11:15 a.m and last till 12:30 p.m. On hearing this I was puzzled! It was just my 2nd or 3rd experience with Gurudev's knowledge. I informed Gurudev that the nurse had just announced that operation will start at 10 am and last just for 20 to 30 minutes. He again insisted that it will start only after 11 am, which will be auspicious. Listening to Gurudev's advice, I requested the nurse, "Will it be comfortable for the doctor to start the operation after

11 am?” At that instance itself she refused and said, “NO, this is not possible. Your son is scheduled to be operated first and then he has to perform two more surgeries after that.”

It was past 9:45 am and the doctor had not yet arrived. At around 10 am. he called up asking to postpone the operation to 11:15a.m as he had to attend some urgent guests who had come to his residence. I was happy and informed Gurudev that things were going according to what He had said. He replied, “I am aware of it. It will start at 11:15a.m and last till 12:30p.m, so you don’t get tensed.”

The doctor came and Vatsal was taken inside the operation theatre at 11:10 am. He was a very brave child and while going inside he asked, “Dad, will my eyes be alright?” Consoling him I said, “Gurudev will take care of you, don’t worry.” The doors closed.

I updated Gurudev that the surgery had started. He once again told me that it will take longer as the second eye also needed to undergo surgery. Every time He kept indicating things to me in advance and also consoled me, "You don't take tension, all will be fine. **I am present over there** and everything is under my control! I just want all of you to pray to Parmatma", we and others at home started reciting the Uvvasaggaharam Stotra.

At 12 noon, I received Gurudev's message that one eye was successfully operated and that the second eye was being operated, which would finish soon. Then He also messaged that the dressing was being done. All of this seemed so supernatural to all of us. I was in conversation with Gurudev just as the nurse came out and said, "The operation is successfully over; the dressing is being done and will take just another 15 to 20 minutes." To this, it just slipped out of my mouth, "I know". The nurse was shocked

and surprised as to how I knew about it.

We thanked Gurudev for His grace. Vatsal came out. He was still under the influence of anesthesia. The doctor said, "I do not want to praise myself for this operation but honestly never before in my career have my hands worked so skillfully. **I felt as if some divine power had taken control of my hands and was performing the surgery.** Tomorrow, we shall open the bandages and based on the recovery we shall schedule the discharge."

We informed Gurudev about the doctor's advice and said we would go to worship Him only after 2 days as we would have to stay at the hospital till then. Gurudev said you may come to visit me after 2 days but today evening he shall be **discharged**. I went to the extent of explaining to Gurudev that the doctor had said that the bandages will be opened only the following day. Then, how will he be discharged today? To this

Gurudev said, "You still do not have faith in me. Since morning, all events are occurring as per my predictions or the doctor's? Anyway, we shall meet in the evening and talk further."

Around 4pm, Vatsal gained consciousness. He curiously asked, "When will my bandages open?" I replied, "Son it might take one or two days, with Gurudev's divine blessings they may be opened soon." It was very surprising for us that though a six year old was operated on, there were no signs of pain or agony. He was very hungry and I took the doctors permission to feed him. He advised to give ice-cream but said he would not be able to eat more than a spoon or two because of the anesthesia. When I went downstairs to buy ice-cream for him, I received Gurudev's message, "I know you are buying ice-cream for Vatsal, buy more because he will require a larger portion." I fed Vatsal two spoons and he was asking for more. We consulted the doctor if we

could give him more to which he was also surprised and said, "You can feed him whatever he wants." Then he ate 2 cups of ice-creams and some puffy rice flakes and went to sleep.

After an hour I received another message from Gurudev suggesting to start preparing for the discharge. The doctor came and he amazingly expressed that he had never seen children of this age have such good health after undergoing such an operation. It was unbelievable! Vatsal requested the doctor, "Why don't you open my bandages? I am getting scared as I can't see." To this the doctor said, "Son you have just spoken what was on my mind. Even I was thinking of the same thing." He slowly removed bandages from Vatsal's eyes and checked them. He began looking at his own hands in disbelief and then left from there. After a few moments, he returned and said, "Mr. Parag, this is the first experience in my life when I am removing bandages from both

the eyes of a patient on the same day. Both his eyes are fine Mr. Parag. **I will discharge him today itself and you can take him home happily."**

We were spellbound! With Gurudev's divine blessings and foresight, Vatsal's eyesight was saved.



SURRENDER TO SAFETY

It was around 9:30 pm when I reached home after spending a long day with Gurudev. After reaching home, somehow, I felt a strong urge to meet Gurudev again. I immediately messaged Gurudev seeking His permission if I could go back from Ghatkopar to Vasai to meet Him. Instantly, He replied asking me not to come and instead advised me to stay at home and relax. But my strong urge to meet Him made me request to Him again asking that I would stay for only 10 minutes.

Gurudev explained that it was 10 pm, and I would reach Vasai only by 11:30 pm. By the time I leave it would be 11:45 pm and that I would return to Ghatkopar very late at night. But I was adamant to go. Finally,

Gurudev tried to avoid me by saying that He was very tired and by the time I reach He would be asleep. I behaved like a stubborn child insisting that I would not wake or disturb Him. I would only worship Him from a distance and leave silently. Gurudev refused again but somehow the urge to see Him grew stronger so I got ready to leave. My brother-in-law Manish offered to accompany me. Then even Jay joined in, so the three of us left.

Manish had come only a few times to worship Gurudev. But that day he was also tired because the entire day he was with me at the hospital. Three of us reached Vasai upashraya around 11:30 pm to find Gurudev awake and waiting for us. He immediately reprimanded me for not obeying. I gently told Him that He should have slept instead of waiting for me. Gurudev being so caring asked, "Can one sleep peacefully when one is tensed?" We did not understand that statement or rather

we never made an effort to understand the same. We sat there for a while generally discussing with Him about the happenings of the whole day at the hospital and again thanked Him for being there for us in every way. At around 12 midnight, we sought His permission to leave. He walked us till the gate and asked me which car we were travelling in. I pointed out to the Sonata car I owned. He exclaimed, "Who is going to drive this big car?" I replied, "I will be driving as the driver has not come." He asked, "Will you be able to drive this BIG car?" I replied, "Gurudev the car is big but since it is automatic it is easy to handle". Gurudev smiled, we took His leave.

On the way back, we were discussing about how Gurudev treated us that night and his unusual behaviour. In a short while both Manish and Jay fell asleep, while I drove. After covering a certain distance in 15 to 20 minutes, my eyes also began to feel heavy and droopy. Immediately, I stopped

by the nearest tea stall to have a cup of tea. I offered Manish and Jay a cup of tea, but they refused. After having my tea, I wanted to freshen and wash my face to get rid of my drowsiness. But the wash room was far away so feeling lazy to walk all the way; I went back to the driving seat. It was quite abnormal to see Manish and Jai sleeping in the car as normally they keep awake.

We all had a very hectic day and therefore, drowsiness made me lose control and about six times I was saved from fatal mishaps like ramming into the divider, banging into a pillar or another car. Manish and Jay were still in deep sleep and unaware of the happenings. We were nearing Ghatkopar when suddenly, I heard Manish alerting me with a loud scream and hearing this I do not know how I applied sudden brakes, stopping to see a big truck just about a feet away from my car. This would have been a head to head collision and in fret, words just slipped out from my mouth,

“This was the seventh time I was saved from a mishap”, to which both simultaneously said, “Then in that case why did you not wake us up?” Finally, it was 1:40 am when we reached home. Without further discussions we went to sleep.

Early morning at around 5 am, I received Gurudev’s message. I felt I heard His voice as I was in an alpha state: **“Why are you still sleeping?”** I replied, “Gurudev, it is still 5 am and we slept late last night!” Gurudev replied, “It was 1:40 am when you reached right?” I thought Gurudev had just guessed this at random. Before I could start sharing with Him the incidents that had occurred at night, Gurudev said, **“You were saved** seven times from fatal mishaps. In fact, you were also sleeping throughout the journey and **you actually woke up only 7 times.”** He even gave me the precise details of how each time I was saved from the mishap.

Completely shocked, I woke up on hearing

this and began reflecting on the descriptions given by Gurudev. Then, I actually understood that apart from these seven times, I was sleeping and the car was controlled by a supernatural force. Honestly, I was unaware how I had driven the car the rest of the journey. Then, Gurudev peacefully explained to me how this happened. He revealed to me the reason why He was asking me not to visit Him. I had ill fate hovering on my head which had led to the mishaps, but Gurudev's grace saved me all the time. But then I curiously asked Gurudev, "If that was the case and you knew it well in advance, then you should have warned me in advance so that I would have requested Manish to drive the car instead of me!" He replied, "My divine rosary was in your pocket and with the help of its divine vibrations I was controlling you and the whole situation. Otherwise, if He would have been driving it would have not been possible to save you at any cost!"

Gurudev has showered countless blessings on me on many occasions. But whenever I remember this particular incident of the mishaps and how Gurudev drove us to safety, my heart pours out to thank Him. From that day onwards I took a vow that I will always try to understand the indications Gurudev gives me and if I do not understand I would never argue with Him in any case.

Gurudev always takes care of His disciples and never claims rewards for this from anyone. Whereas, we on the other hand, would tell the whole world even the smallest favours we do to others. That is the difference between a true GURU and a disciple.



ADDICTED OR DEDICATED

I was addicted to smoking cigarettes at the time when I met Gurudev. In spite of trying very hard to quit this habit, knowing its health hazards, I could not. I was under the impression that Gurudev was unaware of this habit. Whenever I went with Gurudev to seek alms from Jain homes, as soon as He entered the house, I would stay out and take a puff. Once intentionally I kept my cigarette lit till the time Gurudev came out from the house to let Him see me. This thought had played heavily on my mind as I probably didn't have the guts to reveal it. I was sure that Gurudev had seen me with the cigarette and thought that He would gradually question me on this, but on the contrary He said nothing about it which puzzled me all the more!

I had tried quitting this habit but in vain. One day, in the presence of Gurudev, my wife, Mansi asked Gurudev, "Gurudev are you aware that Parag smokes cigarettes. Please can you give him a vow (pachchkkhan) that he should quit smoking." Gurudev said, "A person who wants to quit smoking needs no pressure of any vow to do so, while a person who does not desire to quit, will never quit! Then Gurudev asked me, "Do you want to really quit smoking?" Honestly, I had to take a pause and think twice before saying yes. Assuming that Gurudev would immediately give me the vow, I closed my eyes, joined my hands prepared myself for the vow. There, Gurudev uttered the following words: **"The fact that you had to take a pause and think about the vow, means you are not mentally prepared to give up your habit.** I will give you the vow after a few days." I was overjoyed to get a fifteen days extension.

During those 15 days, my daily consumption of cigarettes increased. When Mansi used to

get angry and tried stopping me, I would tell her that I had only 15 days remaining so she should allow me. After 15 days, I finally approached Gurudev to take the vow but Gurudev said, I will give you the vow on next Thursday. I had another five days so my smoking increased. Finally, Thursday arrived and Gurudev was in Mulund. I drove down from Ghatkopar to Mulund during which I finished 2 cigarettes in 15 minutes, and by the time we reached, only one cigarette was left in my pocket. I asked Mansi to proceed telling her that I would join her in 5 minutes. I lit the last cigarette.

I went upstairs to Gurudev, listened to His religious discourse for 10 to 15 minutes, and then I requested Him to give me the vow to stop smoking. He smiled and asked, "Are you sure you wish to take the vow? Will you be able to manage? No matter how many vows I give you, you will not be able to quit smoking. If you really wanted to quit, you would not be anxiously smoking that

last cigarette downstairs. A person who has firmly decided to quit would not be smoking till the last minute, then there is no first or last.”

This was when I finally realized my mistake, I cried my heart out in front of Gurudev but He did not budge from His decision. **On the one hand, there was a connection from the past births and on the other side, there was this old habit of smoking. The latter drags you in the pit; while the former uplifts the soul towards spirituality.** Now it was up to me to decide?

Automatically, I quit smoking and months passed by. One day, I approached Gurudev with tears in my eyes and requested Gurudev, “Please at least now give me the vow.” I confessed to Him that I had quit smoking since that day and asked for forgiveness.

Gurudev was finally convinced and happily gave me the vow.



LOVE AND CARE

Girnardham, a resting home alongside the highway from Mumbai to Vasai was constructed specially for Jain Saints. Gurudev while travelling (vihaar) towards Vasai, took a night halt there. It was around 6 pm in the evening when I reached there to worship Gurudev.

I was fortunate enough to be alone with Pujya Gurudev and was being blessed by His divine words of wisdom. It was late at night when I expressed my desire to leave and sought His permission for the same. Honestly, the heart was not ready to leave but what worried me were the mosquitoes that hovered around! They were really big in size! The thought of spending the night

with the mosquitoes around was horrifying, even though, deep inside I wanted to stay back. Meanwhile, Gurudev gently advised me to stay back. He said, **“Don’t worry the mosquitoes shall not harm or bite you”**, I stayed back.

After a while, I went to sleep and somewhere around 2 am, I woke up to a sight where I saw Gurudev was sitting next to me and fanning me to keep the mosquitoes away. I thought of it as a wonderful dream and went back to sleep. Early morning, at around 4 am, I woke up to the same wonderful scene. I found Him next to me and at 4:30 am, again the same vision. I immediately woke up but Gurudev advised me to go back to sleep as it was just 4:30 in the morning. As always I considered myself lucky and fortunate that Gurudev Himself was awake for me, even fanning me so that I could be protected from the mosquito bites and could sleep peacefully.

Today, whenever I think of that incident,

I feel ashamed of myself! Any form of repentance or asking for forgiveness will not reverse what I had felt at that time. I had felt, "Oh! How lucky I was?" But today I realize my ignorant behavior and thoughts. How could I trouble Him the whole night just so that I could sleep? How could He be awake for me?

Coconut has this distinguishing quality of being hard from outside and soft from the inside. Similarly, Gurudev is strict when it comes to discipline and regulations, but His heart is very soft, kind and compassionate! Today, I understand the Greatness of Gurudev and His grace! Any soul under His divine grace will be uplifted and cleansed. **My Guru stayed up that night only to awaken my dormant soul that was sleeping since many years!**



PARTNERSHIP WITH PARMATMA

We had a stud farm near Pune. We were three partners in this business out of which one was an NRI. This was before I met Gurudev. Handling the daily affairs on this farm was my share of responsibility. The stud farm had always been an issue and often a reason for arguments between me and my family. They felt that this was not the kind of business a Jain should engage in and my counter argument would always be that we are taking good care of the horses, they are well fed and well taken care of, so where does the aspect of committing a sin arise?

After meeting Gurudev, once I asked Him, "Is the business of a stud farm a form of sinful act? Gurudev said, "If my answer is yes,

then what will you do about the stud farm?" Further I mentioned, "If you could explain to me the reasons of it being sinful, I shall give it up immediately."

Gurudev explained to me, "The purpose of rearing the horses is purely business-oriented. The intention is only to earn profit out of the horse races, rearing them and by getting them pregnant over and over again for monetary profit is surely a sinful act." Gurudev's explanation touched my heart and at that instance I decided to opt out of the partnership. As the daily affair of the farm was my responsibility, it was a little difficult for me to give it up. It was not a factory or a shop set up which could be easily shut down! When one tries to sell this business, one directly incurs a fifty percent loss, contrary to, when one would intend to buy, then he might end up paying double. This thought kind of puzzled me. Moreover, the thought of any mishap, any horse dying

due to lack of proper care was also haunting me. How would I be able to free myself of that sin?

I expressed this concern to Gurudev, "Unless and until we get a new partner I will have to continue the partnership." My problems were different as we would get an investor who could invest money, but to get someone who would be involved in the day to day affairs and running of the stud farm was really difficult. Gurudev answered, "Do not worry! It will take you three months to move out of this business with ease and satisfaction." Around two and half months had passed and there was a ray of hope and happiness, one of my friends got interested in buying my share. Before going to settle the deal, I went to Gurudev to take His blessings and saying "**Shubham Bhava**" - all shall be positive and well, He blessed me!

At that moment my investment share in the stud farm was two crore and forty lakhs, I

thought I would not get anything close to that amount and was prepared to give up my share for even one crore. I decided that an **amount of two crores will really make me happy and anything above that would be donated for a good cause.**

I proceeded for the meeting. He was an old friend of mine, he asked, "Tell me how do you want to settle the deal?" As I was about to disclose to him that my total investment is of two crore forty lakhs... but..." He immediately responded, "I will pay you two crores and forty lakhs, nothing more." I was about to tell him that my investment was two crores and forty lakhs but I will accept any amount that he would offer to me. But before I could complete my sentence... the amount of two crores and forty lakhs was finalized and the deal was struck.

In the evening, I went to Gurudev to share the good news, Gurudev told me, "So the deal is done." I replied affirmatively in an overjoyed

tone. Gurudev immediately uttered the next sentence, **“Well then don’t forget about what you had decided to do before the meeting.”** I was surprised at the statement as I had never mentioned this to anyone else then how did Gurudev come to know about my thought? So to check on Gurudev, I asked Him, “What had I decided?” Gurudev smiled and said, “Your habit of testing the Guru has not yet changed, the blessings of **Shubham Bhava** were given by me, I hope you remember? You wanted only 2 crores, but you got 2 crores and 40 lakhs, so the balance of 40 lakhs, should be used for a good cause without any further delay. I immediately fell at Gurudev’s feet and made a note of the amount to be donated, I credited the amount of forty lakhs in my diary.

I think that moment and that day had really been an auspicious one as I was inspired to use my earnings for a good cause. Then on,

I decided to donate a certain percentage of my income for a humanitarian cause.

What does a humanitarian cause mean? It is a deed or an act that could foster peace and well-being; be it physically, mentally or spiritually regardless of the social status.

These incidents lead me to a new partner.

I decided to make Parmatma my partner and this resulted in a clean business where values and principles were the top priority.

All the faulty methods and approaches to earn money diminished, not only actions but even the thoughts disappeared. Progressive or slow markets stopped affecting me and business related tensions declined. The magical figure of forty lakh remains even though my family and I have donated to various humanitarian causes.

I wonder... I feel blessed under the grace of Gurudev who has inspired me and directed me to charitable tasks. I understand that I

am just the mediator of these events. Truly speaking, its Gurudev's divine grace and blessings that makes such events happen.

To make Parmatma your partner is an opportunity you all must have received, I suggest please make the most of that opportunity! May you and your family be blessed with wealth that is pure and beneficial to one and all. May it bring happiness and purity in thoughts!



MISSING MY VALENTINE

In 2004 Gurudev's Chaturmas was in Baroda. He had already reached Baroda in the month of February. The 14th of February, Valentine's Day celebration, exactly one year after I met Gurudev. I had decided to go for Gurudev's darshan on February 14th every year as on this auspicious day I had found my Guru. I was very excited and I told Gurudev that every year on February 14th I will surely come to worship you. Gurudev said, **"That is not going to be possible as you are not destined for it"**. Even then, as usual I insisted... I planned a surprise visit.

On February 14th, I had an early morning flight at 5:45 am for which the check-in time was 5:00am. It takes around 20 minutes to reach airport from my residence in the early morning.

Feeling happy I was ready early, I left home at 4:15 am only to my surprise and shock to experience traffic congestion on the road. That very day, there was a recruitment drive in Air India due to which thousands of young boys and girls had come for job placements. Somehow I reached at 5:15 am only to find that the ticket counter was closed, I missed the flight. At that very moment I recalled Gurudev's words and actually felt the vibrations telling me, "I had clearly indicated to you that you will not make it on the 14th of February. You do not listen to me and always get into trouble."

The next flight was in the evening at 6 pm. I booked it in advance and decided to be at the airport two hours prior to departure. This time, I did not want to take any risk, especially after the morning mishap. My only objective was to meet Gurudev anyhow. I began my journey towards the airport, took another route to avoid traffic, till some time all went smoothly, suddenly, after covering a certain distance I faced a traffic jam. The morning saga was repeated,

this scenario emerged from nowhere. Literally I left the car and started running towards the airport. I was late! I was praying that the flight should be delayed which would give me some more time. But unfortunately, it was 7pm when I reached the airport and **the flight had taken off without me!** I could not go to Baroda to my Gurudev, on the 14th of February.

I informed Gurudev about having missed my flight twice on the same day and therefore, was unable to visit Him. Gurudev said, "You can never surprise your sir. I had told you earlier as well that you will not be able to make it, but you do not listen to me." Since then I have noticed that for some reason or the other I have not been able to meet Gurudev on Valentine's day. I have till date not been able to understand the reason behind this, tried to ask Him many a times but He always maintained silence! Again here the problem with me is that **I fail to comprehend the silence!**



PARASDHAM - IT'S POSITIVE

As I resided on the 13th floor, we weren't fortunate enough to have Jain saints visit our house as it would be difficult for them to climb so many flight of stairs as they normally avoid using lifts. After meeting Gurudev, I had this thought that my house should be conveniently accessible to Jain saints so that we are fortunate enough to be able to serve them. I grabbed the opportunity to purchase an apartment on the first floor in the building opposite to mine. What delighted me the most was the fact that Gurudev would someday sanctify this new home and I would be able to serve Him dearly!

But fate did not approve such a small

apartment for a highly spiritual personality!

Society started taking objections on the lifestyle of Jain monks as certain rituals would cause disturbance to the neighborhood. I expressed this concern to Gurudev with a heavy heart, He smiled and replied, **"Perhaps something bigger is in store for you?"**

Gurudev guided me of constructing a spiritual centre where not only the elderly would come to worship but where even youngsters would love to come again and again and involve themselves in religious activities. A common man thinks about today; But my Gurudev is a personality with a divine wisdom and foresight of the present, past and future; thus, began my search for such a location. How and what should be done to enthuse youngsters to be a part of a spiritual activity?

1. Upashraya are usually unclean.

2. Bathroom and Toilet facilities are not so hygienic.
3. The sound system is banned in the Jain society due to which it is difficult to clearly hear the discourses of saints by the entire gathering and thus, ideologies are lost.

One who serves Parmatma selflessly is always guided, supported and blessed by the divine.

The budget for constructing the spiritual centre was unknown to me, though I was confident as Gurudev had showered His divine blessings on me. I requested Gurudev that if we are constructing the spiritual place, the full expenses of the same shall be borne only by me. To this Gurudev replied, "No, this being a spiritual place for the community, all can participate and contribute. Any successful spiritual organization needs efficient teamwork and good wishes from one and all. Include everyone-their physical, mental and financial

involvement and contributions to create this spiritual organization.

Gurudev began the mission of this religious place by obtaining the blessings of Parshwanath Paramatma, the very reason the place was named as Parasdham. As if Parshwanath Paramatma, had given the task of finding the place to Parshwayaksh, in no time a suitable location was obtained in Ghatkopar and all legal procedures of possession were completed with great speed.

We had already requested Gurudev that He should be in Parasdham for His next Chaturmas. We were seven months away from the starting date of Chaturmas, and still our drawings and plans were at the municipality office for sanctions. I was supported by many Gurubhakts to shape this dream into reality. The plot was small in area and again being in the midst of residential area, work in the night was not allowed, stocking materials was a problem,

and many other day to day challenges kept arising. Now our sole objective was to complete the construction of Parasdham by all means. Seven months passed in a wink and miraculously we saw Parasdham complete and ready.

Today, when I look back and think about the whole experience, a cold shiver runs down my spine. Being in the profession of construction and having constructed many buildings, I realize that the construction of Parasdham with the blessings of Gurudev was a different experience. We all observed that there were no obstacles and problems of funds. All this was not possible without the divine blessings of Gurudev.

22nd July 2007 was the auspicious day when Gurudev was going to sanctify Parasdham for Chaturmas. As decided he would go to Parasdham from our house. He arrived at my residence the previous evening. We were all very happy that this spiritual task was

accomplished, but as I observed Gurudev did not seem very happy. I guessed possibly He was tired and not in the mood. Suddenly, for no fault of mine Gurudev got very angry with me! I was tensed by this and started thinking over the events to trace my mistakes. I thought that at night, as usual Gurudev would give us religious preaching and explain, but surprisingly, He went to His room earlier than usual. Early next morning at 4 am, Mansi and I were waiting for Gurudev. As the door opened, I asked Gurudev, "Why were you angry with me yesterday?" He got angry again and said a few things that hurt me.

In fact, in all this I had forgotten to ask myself the question why is Gurudev angry with me? Finally, He calmed down and proceeded towards Parasdham. I was mentally broken and upset, not understanding what had gone wrong that made Gurudev angry. Many people asked me the reason for being nervous and tensed on such a grand day.

Then, they themselves answered saying that I must be tired by all those events. In a way I did not have to lie to them. The opening ceremony of Parasdham and Chaturmas Pravesh was a spectacular event being graced by many renowned personalities. Many Jain monks sent their greetings to Gurudev, and around 5000 to 7000 people who had gathered were praising Paragbhai for the great work of accomplishment. But to me all praises fell on deaf ears. I was thinking of what had gone wrong on my side that my Guru was angry with me. **The wait for Gurukrupa was my only Test.** Tears were rolling down my cheeks even while sitting on the stage and giving my speech. People thought that I was crying with joy; whereas in reality I was actually very upset. Honourable Gurubhakt's like Menaka Gandhi, Uddhav Thackrey and Prakash Mehta also praised me. Gurudev congratulated all the people who were involved directly or indirectly in the construction of Parasdham,

but Paragbhai's name was not mentioned anywhere! Gurudev did not look at me during the function even once, as if I did not exist; even today when I remember that day I break down.

Gurudev then started His spiritual discourse with a story: One day a monkey disguised himself as Lord Shree Ram. He took the register wherein Lord Ram used to write the names of those devotees who used to worship and have faith in him by all means. On reading the list, the monkey was shocked and surprised because on scrolling down, he did not find the name of Shree Hanuman. He went and complained to Hanuman, "I read the complete list only to find out that your name was not mentioned anywhere". Hearing this, Hanuman got worried and with a heavy heart and tears in his eyes, he reached to meet Lord Ram. Lord Ram was a divine soul; he immediately understood Hanuman's problem and he took him to a room showing him another register wherein

the whole register was covered with the name of Hanuman. Lord Ram explained to him that, "In one of his registers, there is a list of people who remember me every day, whereas my second book contains name of the person whom I remember millions of times in a day."

With this, Gurudev ended the story and said, **"I heartily congratulate my hanuman on this accomplishment of Parasdham."** With this He immediately removed one rosary and gifted it to me. In a flash, all my sorrows and sadness vanished and happiness engulfed me as I was holding Gurudev's mala in my hand. The recognition He gave me made me speechless as I could read all the messages through His eyes. He did not say a word but He made me understand it all. I realized why He pretended to be so angry with me. It was to keep me subdued so that all the praise would not get into my head, making me snobbish and arrogant. Knowingly or unknowingly, my ego would

have been nurtured because of the praises that I would have been showered upon and instead of punya, I would entangle myself in the sin of ego and pride. **Guru's anger is also for the benefit of the disciple!** In the evening when I went to Gurudev, He explained to me that it is always the Guru's task to take care of His disciple. He very well understands the capability and the worthiness of His disciple.

Not only does my Guru eliminate sorrows; but also the reason of sorrow! My Guru is so dynamic!



AARADHYAJI - A DIVINE CALL

Sometime in the 1st week of May 2011, we were sitting with Yug Diwakar Pujya Gurudev, when He said, **“Mummy does not have too much time in hand,** I suggest you try to fulfill all her wishes and spend maximum time with her.”

This statement was thought provoking... as we saw mummy was fine and in good health. Within 3 to 4 days, she complained of a severe stomach ache and on investigation, the doctor diagnosed it to be a kidney stone. So the relevant treatment started immediately. I informed Gurudev about this and with a radiant smile He told me, “Let them do what they feel right, soon they will ask to conduct more tests. Let them

conduct the tests”, and yes, the next day we were asked to perform Endoscopy and Sonography. Again, I informed Gurudev about this and He further said that the doctor will perform one more test. And true enough, the same happened. The doctor asked to get a Biopsy done. That evening, I again informed Gurudev about the Biopsy and finally, Gurudev did not want to keep us in the dark and He revealed that she had Cancer. I could not swallow this as my mother showed no symptoms.

Four days later, before going to collect the report, I went to Gurudev. Gurudev once again assured me of the report stating it to be cancer. He gave me strength and courage to face the situation, making me positive. He also advised me that allopathy medicines will not work on her.

In the evening, to my surprise the report declared cancer. I did not react much on hearing the report as Gurudev had already

revealed it to me in the morning. The doctor was confused seeing my expressionless face. How could I react when I already knew? On top of that, Gurudev had made me so positive, then how could I express shock?

I gathered courage and asked, "Doctor, generally what is the expected lifetime for such patients?" He replied, "Maximum of 3 months and she would suffer with jaundice after 15 days which will remain with her till the end."

"Dr, what can be done to increase her life span?" He replied, "She has to be real lucky to withstand the treatment and prolong her life to maximum, a period of six months, the progress can be judged only when the right time comes! The pain and suffering will be unbearable." She was advised compulsory bed rest.

On hearing this, I broke down; I went straight to Gurudev and expressed my concern. Gurudev smilingly assured me that she will

die a peaceful death and neither Jaundice will infect her **nor will she be bedridden.** Then, very softly He said we shall see who turns out to be true? 25th May 2011 was the day when we got to know about her ailment and six months passed by... I remembered what the doctor had said, "How lucky the patient is, can be understood after 3 to 6 months". I knew how lucky we were! Six months passed by without she being infected by jaundice, she was doing well. I remembered Gurudev's soothing words.

As per Gurudev's agnya and under His able guidance, we decided to treat her with ayurvedic medicines and refrained from using allopathic ones. Rest we left all to Gurudev, for His divine intervention and blessings resulted in peace! For four months, neither did she experience pain nor did she require bed rest. She was hale and hearty!

Faith on Pujya Gurudev had already taken deep roots, His divine indications, timely

guidance, His gracious presence, His shower of blessings and preparing us to face the situations positively in advance, fills our hearts with extreme gratitude. Our head and heart bows down with at His feet. **His divine grace is truly our strength...** It is the driving force of our lives!

30th June - 3rd July 2012, I was in Chennai near Gurudev, on 3rd night I returned from Chennai and received a message from Gurudev the next morning, "Now mummy does not have much time, life is about to end soon. He guided her to **start the chanting of 'Chhatari Sharnam Pawajjami' immediately.**

As per His agyna we started chanting of the stotra. Again, in the afternoon, we were blessed with another message, "Looking at her health condition, her punya and her qualities of determination and forbearance, **Santharo is the best sadhana,** inspire Indiraben for the same."

I reached home in the evening and informed mummy about Gurudev's message and asked her decision on the same. Honestly, in the last 14 months, Gurudev's every word had become messages of divine wisdom and she immediately agreed to this and later she expressed her wish in front of the family to get everyone's opinion and consent.

False attachments and feelings are of no value in front of Gurudev's agnya of improving her future births. Each one of us felt that we should not be an obstacle in her path of liberation? The whole family agreed!

In the evening, mummy expressed her desire to speak to Gurudev. I called Gurudev from my cell and the speaker phone was on. There was an exchange of only two sentences between them in which she asked Gurudev, "I am unaware of what to do in the process of santharo, I have no knowledge of what has to be done." and the second sentence was, " I have profound faith in You

and I shall do whatever You guide me to do under Your responsibility and grace, please advise me from when should I start this divine process?”

We were astounded! Such an important and majestic decision was taken in just 2 sentences! Gurudev in His divine voice uttered '**Shubham Bhava.**' On hearing this, from the very next moment, she entered the aura of the spiritual process of Santharo. All relationships, emotions, attachments ended then and there. The following morning saw a vibrant Indiraben... there was a different kind of freshness and energy on her face.

Gurudev indicated her to perform her spiritual penance in Parasdham, as its positive vibrations would support, improve the quality and results of her penance.

While leaving home finally, even as she stepped out, she never looked back as she had already disconnected from the worldly

life. Such values of detachment, spirituality and self confidence can come only through the grace of a Guru!

Till date, I thought I was the only one in my family who would go to any extent to respect Pujya Gurudev's guidance or agyna. But **I am proud to say that my Mother Indiraben went a step further than me in observing His agnya.**

Parag Shah.

Gurudev,

If in this expressed emotional writing

If I have hurt you in any way then

Please forgive me!!

Parag Shah.

*The above stated are my true feelings,
My experiences with my Gurudev,
If This Truth touches you!*

You could share your experiences & send it to

pranpushpa@yahoo.com

gparasdham@yahoo.com



PARASDHAM

Vallabh Baug, Tilak Road,
Ghatkopar(E), Mumbai - 400 077. Phone : 022-32043232.

www.parasdham.org, www.arham.org, www.looknlearn.in