



*Pursuit of
Eternal Bliss*
II

**Divine Discourses by
Yug Diwakar Pujya Gurudev
Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb**



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A Legendary Visionary ...

Tapsamrat Pujya Gurudev Shree Ratilalji Maharaj Saheb's blessed disciple, a versatile visionary and revolutionary with an extraordinary personality is our Pujya Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb.

Pujya Gurudev aims for universal welfare and hence dreams for the progress of the society and the nation with open eyes. He then reflects, analyses, meditates and develops his dream into a vision with closed eyes. The vision then turns into his mission which he accomplishes by hard work and commitment.

His vision about how to mould the next generation on to the right path led to the formation of Look n Learn Gyan Dham for children and the Arham Yuva Group for youngsters. Pujya Gurudev's other missions are the formation of the Arham Senior Citizen's group, Arham Satsang, Guru Spandan, Shree Uvasaggaharam Bhakti Group and many more.

To ensure that Jainism spreads across the globe, Pujya Gurudev's discourses are available in print and audio-visual form. Various booklets for children and adults are published on a fortnightly or monthly basis. He also organized the Aagam Mahotsav, with an aim of spreading awareness and knowledge of Jainism amongst people.

His simple, unique and exemplary style of imparting knowledge has drawn many youngsters, Jains and Non-Jains towards spirituality. His principles involve dedication, discipline and humanitarian services.

Introduction

Parmatma's preachings are served to us in the most palatable form by Yug Diwakar Pujya Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb. '*Pursuit of Eternal Bliss*' is a series of the divine discourses. This translated version in English stands for its clear explanations and relevant anecdotes which act as a step by step guide on how to progress towards the divine. We must understand *Parmatma's* call and experience an awakening from within. *Sadhana* is the answer to *Parmatma's* call.

Let us make ourselves worthy by cultivating true virtues i.e worship, goodwill, acts of giving and totally surrendering to our *Satguru*. Our predispositions from previous births play a role in our current pursuit. Our *sadhana* is to overcome these predispositions and continue moving forward in our chosen path. We should work towards inculcating humility and eliminating ego and intellect as we move towards *Parmatma*.

Live the Moment!

There was once a rich man (*shreshty*), in Kutch, Bhuj district. His son was to get married soon. We all know weddings can be a lavish affair for the rich and this was no different. It was to be a grand wedding with expensive ornaments, splendid decor and a variety of musical instruments. Such occasions when celebrated in a middle class family, tend to be a low key affair. However, the rich spare no efforts.

While the preparations were going on for the wedding, the rich man suddenly had the desire to hire the king's band for the wedding as he felt that it would add to the grandeur of the occasion. In those days, one had to appeal to the king for his band. The rich man wrote an application to the king to request for the band and delivered it to the king in a sealed cover.

It was customary during that time that no applications or appeals would be given directly to the king. It would be routed from the junior officer to the senior officer and then to the top officer and finally, to the king. The officer asked the rich man why he required the king's band. The rich man replied, "I have explained everything in this letter and if the king grants me my wish, I will get the band."

All the junior and senior officers were surprised at the rich man's request, for the king's band because no such

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request had ever been made before. But they forwarded the appeal letter to the king through the laid protocol.

There was a huge gathering at the rich man's house. Loud music was being played and the atmosphere became even more glamorous with the addition of the king's band. The officer handed the rich man his application letter and told him that his request was granted and hence, the king's band was at his disposal. The rich man was surprised and happy. He could not stop smiling while reading the contents of the letter. Why was he smiling? Was it because the king's band had arrived and it added glamour to his function, which made the rich man really happy. Again, why was he smiling? Was it for the band and the favor done by king?

No! The reason was different. When the rich man's request for the band reached the king through his channels of officers, he immediately ordered the officers to send the band to the rich man's house and also said that it should remain there as long as the rich man wanted as he was a close acquaintance. He also added that the he had received an invite from the rich man too.

However, the rich man was surprised and amused at the same time, because the band had arrived not to celebrate the wedding of his son but to celebrate the baby shower of his daughter-in-law. It had come too late! The request for the band had been made for his son's wedding but due to

the long bureaucratic hierarchy, it had taken such a long time for the band to reach his house. What was the use of the band for this simple ceremony, it could have added pomp to the wedding grandeur back then.

The message here is to do what you can today, rather than leaving it for tomorrow. It reiterates the importance of doing things at the right and appropriate time and not delaying decisions for later. We always come up with excuses like, “I will look into it, I will try to, I will think about it”. These excuses never bring the right results and having such a mindset is not productive.

One must always aim and have a strong determination to gain something from the discourses. Otherwise, one will have strong regrets for having missed the opportunity when the time was right.

Parmatma rightly says, “Do utilize the opportunities that come to you today, otherwise, the world will criticize you tomorrow for the missed opportunities.”

Be Receptive

There was a king who thought that he had enough grains in his kingdom’s warehouse when in reality there was a drought everywhere in his kingdom and people did not have anything to eat. He declared that he will open his warehouse the next morning and distribute food grains to his people. It was further reiterated that only those who would

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reach at sharp nine a.m. would be given the ration and that they needed to bring their own containers which will be filled to the brim.

Everyone in the kingdom was happy with the announcement that they will be given ration according to the size of their containers. This was the talk of the town. Many had doubts about the king's promise. A few thought that king was new while the drought had been around for the last five years and would not end with the king's stored treasures. Hence, they had doubts about the king's commitment and called him a mad king, who simply wanted to create a good impression.

The next morning, the palace ground was filled with people by nine a.m. A few people were carrying a small glass, some carried a small container, some carried bags and some sacks. There were a handful, who had so much faith in the king, that they had brought a cart to avail maximum advantage of the king's offerings. But a lot of people came empty-handed because they had no faith in the king's promise and had come to witness what was about to happen.

The palace doors were locked at nine a.m. and the palace ground was filled with people. All were curious to see if the king would actually have anything to give to the public. Finally, the king opened the kingdom's treasure. It contained many food grains like rice, wheat, maize and other

grains and also other necessities accumulated by the king's father over a period of time.

The king ordered everybody to queue up. He asked the first person what he had brought to take the grains, the king was surprised when he said that he had come only to see. The king asked the next one, who had brought a bag, and the king filled it with wheat. The king gave everyone something according to the capacity of their container. Even the cart was filled with wheat, rice, butter, sugar, etc.

The king stood by his words and did not allow anyone inside after nine a.m. and did not allow anyone to leave the grounds before the job was done.

Similarly, Lord Mahavir has left us infinite knowledge on human betterment. There is drought in our lives because we lack insight and the ability to understand *Parmatma's* teachings. The life-saving grains are the scriptures -Aagam gifted to us by Lord Mahavir. We too have announced that exactly at nine a.m., we will distribute the preaching of Lord Mahavir free of charge. So what have all of you brought to carry back this knowledge? A small glass, a bowl, a cart or a pair of empty hands?

All gates of the king's palace were closed till eleven a.m., till he had distributed all the treasures. People were waiting outside just to check whether the king had stood by his given promise. All were not too concerned if they

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received something but were prepared to stand against the king if the promise was not fulfilled. However, all of them left depressed as they were stunned to see everyone coming out with bags and carts full of grains. They felt unlucky and dejected for not getting a share of the king's treasure.

Almighty has explained in Bhagvati Sutra that :-

Our soul feels obliged and satisfied with unlimited progress when we are fed with the grains in the form of discourses and preachings. But we hardly value the preachings. These same words and preachings can become as valuable as gold if understood with a sense of trust and belief. We hardly trust the sacred words and lectures. We are unable to imbibe these preachings and put them in action. However, if one is able to align with his Guru's preachings and trust his words, all the world's happiness will be at his feet.

Those who are simply onlookers remain spectators and those who gain become owners of unlimited treasure.

Becoming Worthy of Receiving

There is a very important and interesting topic in the Aagam about a Guru and his disciple. The disciple wants to attain complete knowledge from the Guru and he was very much eager to gain everything that his Guru knew. However, one only receives as per one's eligibility and calibre. One cannot get more than what he deserves. We may have the

blessings of our Guru but what can he do if we do not have the required capacity to digest his knowledge.

It is similar, to going to the king with a bag to get the favour in kind and currency but what happens if he opens his bag upside down? The king may give generously but nothing will enter the bag if it is not held properly. Likewise, you cannot get the desired results until you are ready and capable of it. He may give his complete blessings but one needs to have the required characteristics and understanding to fully adopt and digest his blessings. Your desire to avail all the traits of your Guru without much effort and sacrifices is impossible.

A small plant often wondered why all the birds chose to fly to the neighbouring tree and sit on it instead of coming to him. This is quite a similar situation when one family member is popular and everyone will address him and respect him and ignore others. The other family members may get jealous or annoyed. The plant felt that things were not going right and decided to move the tree away from him. One day, the plant told the tree that it was his fault that the birds would not come to him as he was smaller and asked the tree to move away.

The tree in turn replied, “Once, there was an argument between two stones. One was blaming the other that everybody comes to you, worships you and also respect you

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very much. But no one is taking care of me.” The other replied that, “I have reached this stage after long periods of suffering. I have been crushed, knocked over and thrown around in the river which led to my round and smooth shape and as a result I am being worshiped today as God, in the form of an idol in this world.”

So, the tree advised the small plant to forget any attempts to remove it and to instead start flourishing such that the birds would perch on it.

No pain no gain, so make yourself worthy of everything you desire.

Being a Worthy Disciple

Once a disciple noticed that everyone was going to his Guru but no one was coming to him. So he asked his Guru to teach him everything so that people would start coming to him. However, the Guru could only teach his disciple up to a point, as a Guru knows his disciple’s capacity and limitations.

In the meantime, a group of monks had come and were discussing about their achievement over the art of alchemy and having the powers to create gold. The disciple who listened to their conversation wondered why his Guru had not taught him this power. The monks had the powers (a mantra) and access to a powerful potion that could turn an iron sheet to gold with just a single drop.

The disciple insisted that his Guru teach him the same mantra. However, his Guru explained that as monks they had no fixed abode and as such had no requirement for such a mantra. The disciple, however, insisted to learn the mantra.

One only has such desires when he is not satisfied with himself and his possessions. He does not appreciate what he has but wants something that he does not have. Over time, the disciple started drifting away from his Guru because of his tremendous desire to achieve power. Finally, he went to the monks and pleaded them to teach him the mantra. The monks asked him to first get the permission and the blessings of his Guru. The disciple tried to convince the monks that he was eligible and a capable candidate to learn the mantra as he had some other powers. However, the monks insisted that he get his Guru's permission first.

The disciple agreed to do so and decided to spend the night there. He managed to steal a drop of the precious liquid whilst he was there. He then separated the potion into its metallic components and managed to learn the quantum of each element and the secret on how to create the potion.

Twelve and a half years passed by. By this time, the disciple was successful in creating a big pot of the potion. This is a true story. Every day he will take one drop and enthral members of the public by transforming metals to

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gold. Everyone would flock to him to witness this miracle. Such is the case, people often show great interest in things that are magical and mystical but they rarely show interest in discourses by spiritual leaders.

The disciple's popularity grew as more and more people came to know of his powers. One day, he remembered his Guru and decided to send him a bottle of his potion. When the messenger presented the bottle to the Guru and informed him that his disciple, Nagarjun had sent it, the Guru immediately understood that his disciple had gone against his wishes.

Achievements without permission can be disastrous.

A Guru always takes care of the well being of his disciples. He always ensures that his disciples do not resort to something that can be detrimental to them. The Guru will always try and bring his disciple back on track if he sways away from the right path. The Guru takes the onus of his disciple when the disciple loses his way and is misguided. The Guru will not desert his disciple and leave him to his fate. Likewise, Nagarjun's Guru decided to bring him back to his fold the moment he was presented with the powerful potion.

The Guru refused to accept the bottle and asked the messenger to take it back since he had no use of the potion. The messenger was surprised and explained that the potion was so powerful that even a drop was enough to turn a

piece of iron to gold. The messenger further said, “Gurudev, your disciple has committed his last twelve years into mastering the art and has reached the height of his powers.” To which his Guru replied, “This is of no value to me and I do not have any respect for what he has achieved.” The messenger still insisted that the Guru accept the bottle and acknowledge its receipt in writing. The Guru lost his cool and decided to teach the messenger a lesson. He kicked the bottle and threw it outside. The bottle cracked and the liquid spread over the ground. The messenger got angry and abused the Guru for not respecting Nagarjun’s achievements and for not seeing the value of the potion.

Only a superior understands the value of superiority, not a novice

Listening to the messenger’s harsh words, the Guru asked the messenger to wait for some time. The Guru went inside and came out with his urine in a bedpan and asked the messenger what it was. The messenger replied that he had not come there to see the urine so what was the purpose of showing it to him. The Guru showed the messenger a big slab of stone and asked him to identify it. The messenger replied that it was simple slab of stone. The Guru asked him to check it once again and see if it had any fault.

Then he asked the messenger to observe closely. The Guru performed a Jain ritual called “*paravadhi*”. As soon as

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he performed this ritual, the entire stone slab turned to gold. Then the Guru turned to the messenger and told him to tell his disciple Nagarjun, that what he took twelve and a half years to achieve is simply being discarded away by the Guru everyday and that if he had understood the message, then he should return back to his Guru's fold with respect.

However, Nagarjun did not heed to his Guru's advice and continued his business as usual. Some thieves and dacoits got to know of Nagarjun's achievement and decided to rob him of his powerful potion. One night, they went to Nagarjun muni's place, stuffed a piece of cloth in his mouth and went away with the potion.

Power achieved with Guru's permission is valuable but the same turns to dust if not gained through the Guru's blessings.

Gurudev is always supreme and above all of us in terms of knowledge, qualifications and powers. Just imagine that the Guru had immense power to generate wealth whereas the disciple had only one pot of the potion.

With sacrifice one attains a lot. One who seeks knowledge and power, may even succeed, however, this does not last long. Once one completely surrenders to a Guru and obeys every precept of his Guru, then all achievements and wealth will fall at one's feet. However, if one turns away from a Guru, he may succeed in life for a short period,

however, his achievements and success may not be to his advantage and could even cause him harm.

Courage to Respond

Once in a small village, everyone started shouting and there was utter chaos. One of the shepherd's (*Kathi*) son was sleeping and was awakened by the noise. He was surprised at the early morning chaos. He came out of his bed and saw clouds of dust all around. People were running around shouting for help. He began to wonder what was happening. He heard that people from the nearby village were trying to take away the cows from their village. They were taking away a herd of around five to ten thousand cows from the village. We can understand the reaction of a shepherd on hearing about this problem. Generally, we would think that this is not our concern and would go back to bed. However the shepherd immediately came out. He was concerned that the village would suffer heavy losses and felt that he could not allow others to take away the property his village.

Brave men are those whose bravery is awakened in moments of adversity. News of adversity will touch the heart of a brave man and get his adrenaline pumping, however a coward does not feel these emotions. As such, a brave man is unable to remain silent. The heart can never be silent. Why is this so? The heart is constantly beating, when such instances reach the heart, the heart rate increases, and this

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spreads all over the body in the form of adrenaline and brings out the latent courage in a person. The shepherd had a similar experience.

What does a doctor do when a patient's heartbeat slows down? Or when the patient has reached the last moments of his life or if the patient has become very weak? The doctor will administer an injection to revive the heartbeats. The moment the heart beats start functioning normally, they immediately send all the messages from heart to each and every part of the body. The words that fall on the ears get immediately transferred to the heart, hands, legs, ears and other parts of the body, causing tremors in them.

The shepherd immediately rushed out of the house to rescue the cows from the enemy. He ran outside to face the enemy. He picked up the thick metal chain used in farms to tie the cattle's neck. Although the metal chain was thick and difficult to lift, the shepherds courage and determination to fight the enemy gave him inner strength to lift it. Seeing the enemy aroused his bravery, he hooked the metal chain around the enemy's neck and tightened the grip such that the man was unable to move at all. The enemy ran for his dear life.

The shepherd freed all the cows and returned home. The enemy returned back to his village and went from one locksmith to another to remove the metal chain tied around

his neck. They were unable to do it. It had been secured in such a way that the only way to remove it was to melt or break it. The man became desperate as none of the locksmiths were able to help. He started crying. The chain had been tied by the shepherd when he was experiencing an overwhelming inner strength and courage and with that might he was able to bend the chain. Now no one was able to undo it.

The man returned to the shepherd's house to take his help in removing the chain. He even offered money to the shepherd for the same. However, now it was not possible for the shepherd to remove the chain from his enemy's neck. The shepherd needed the same atmosphere of determination, fury, a drive and purpose to rescue the cows. Only then would he have the same inner strength to bend the thick metal chain. He tried his best but was unsuccessful.

However, we regret that in spite of our attempts at increasing your awareness and calling out to you, there is no one from you who wants to come forward and join us. Why?

Why is there no positive response after listening to *Parmatma's* preaching ?

Why was it that only one shepherd came forward to save the cows from being captured by the enemy's village? There were other twenty-five shepherds present there when the villagers shouted for help. All others were equally brave.

This is because there were elements of bravery from many previous lives in the shepherd's soul. These elements provoked him to come forward and rescue the cows.

Taking The First Step

Once a beggar went to a rich man's house and asked for a glass of water as he was very thirsty.

Rich man : The water is inside the kitchen and there is no one at home who can give it to you.

Beggar : Okay, no problem, then please give me ₹. 10 as I am very hungry.

Rich man : I do not have small change at the moment, hence, cannot give them to you.

Beggar : Okay ! Then please give me a pair of clothes.

Rich man : No, that too, is not possible now.

Beggar : No problem, I do not have a pair of shoes, please give me a pair.

Rich man : I just bought three new pairs yesterday, how can I give you a new pair of shoes ?

Beggar : Sir, if you cannot give me anything else, then give me at least ₹. 1.

Rich man : No ! No ! I don't have the change.

Beggar : Ok sir, do one thing, give me a pinch of dust lying at your feet.

The rich man was now frustrated and wanted to get rid of beggar so he decided to give him a pinch of dust. The

beggar left with the dust in his hand and turned back once to look at the rich man. The rich man became nervous and wondered why the beggar wanted the dust from him.

He was curious and asked the beggar, “Why did you ask for a pinch of dust ?” The beggar replied, “I don’t know whether this dust will be of any use to me or not, but I have seen that your hands are still not prepared to give anything to anybody. I asked you for a pinch of dust to make your hands practice the art of giving and so hopefully in the future you will be able to give more to others.”

The idea is to have an intent or desire to do something for a noble cause.

Whenever we listen to the call of *Parmatma*, anything is possible. If a shepherd can respond to the call and bend the thick metal chain, then why can’t we ? We can achieve it, if we try! We all can have our spiritual awakening today!



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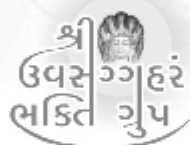


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Yug Diwakar Pujya Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb

With the aim of universal welfare, He has always strived towards wholesome development and progress of the society and the whole nation, and this has resulted in the initiation of the project 'Global Jain Aagam Mission' - The herculean task of translation of Aagam in English. The knowledge soaked, invaluable Jain Scriptures will be acclaimed universally and read by all across the globe.



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