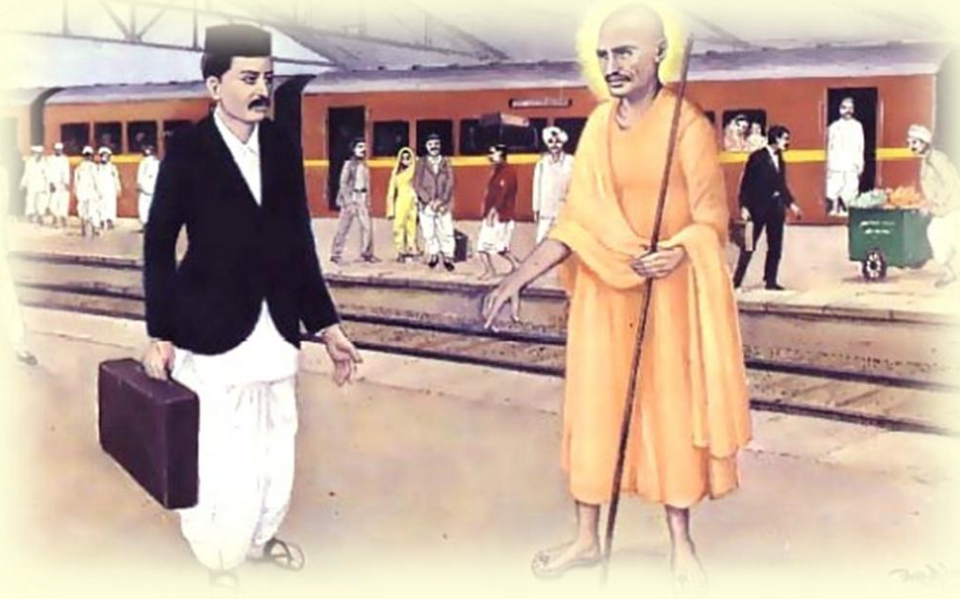


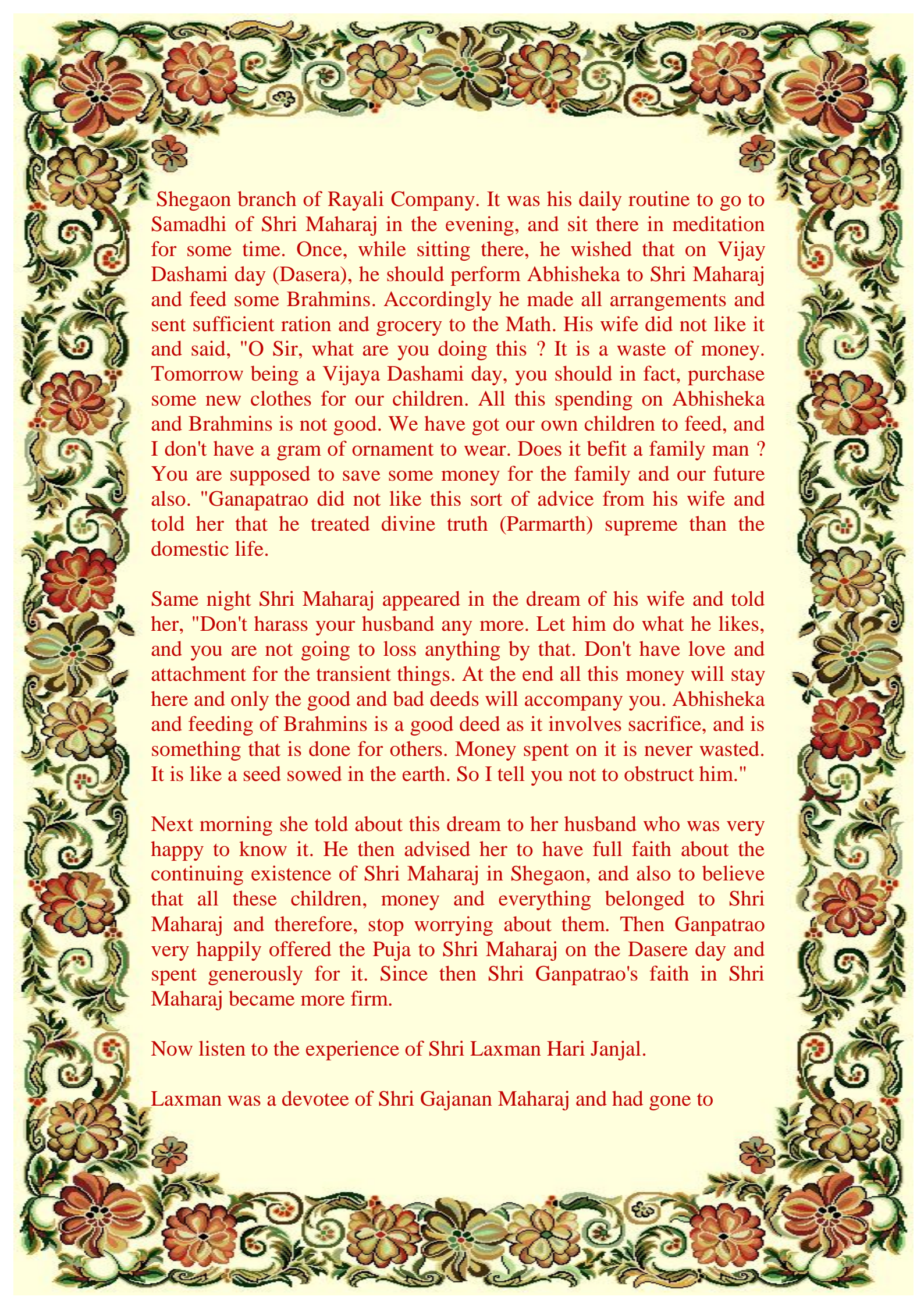
* CHAPTER TWENTY *



Shri Ganeshay Namaha ! O Rukminivara Jai to you. O God residing on the bank of Chandrabhaga, please blesses this Dasganu. You are the king of kings. Everything is in your hands. Then why are you ignoring me ? Let your kind grace destroy all my sins and worries, and make the mind cheerful to sing in your praise. If it is not done, unnecessary blame will come to you. Great men should avoid such blame. Therefore, O Shyamsundara, O Lord of Rukmini, O generous Panduranga fulfill my desire.

After the "Nirvan" of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, people started saying that there was nothing left now at Shegaon, except some dust. The sea without water and a flower tree without flowers lose their importance. So they thought useless to visit Shegaon as it is meaningless to offer flowers at the temple without God in it. So said many people, but they were wrong. The invisible divine life flame of Shri Gajanan Maharaj is still there at Shegaon. Though Shri Dayaneshwar Maharaj attained Samadhi long back on the bank of Indrayani, he did meet many of his devotees at that place. Similarly, Shri Gajanan Maharaj gives Darshan to those, who believe his existence at Shegaon.

Following incidence will prove it. There was one Shri Ganpat Kothade, a great devotee of Shri Maharaj. He was the agent of



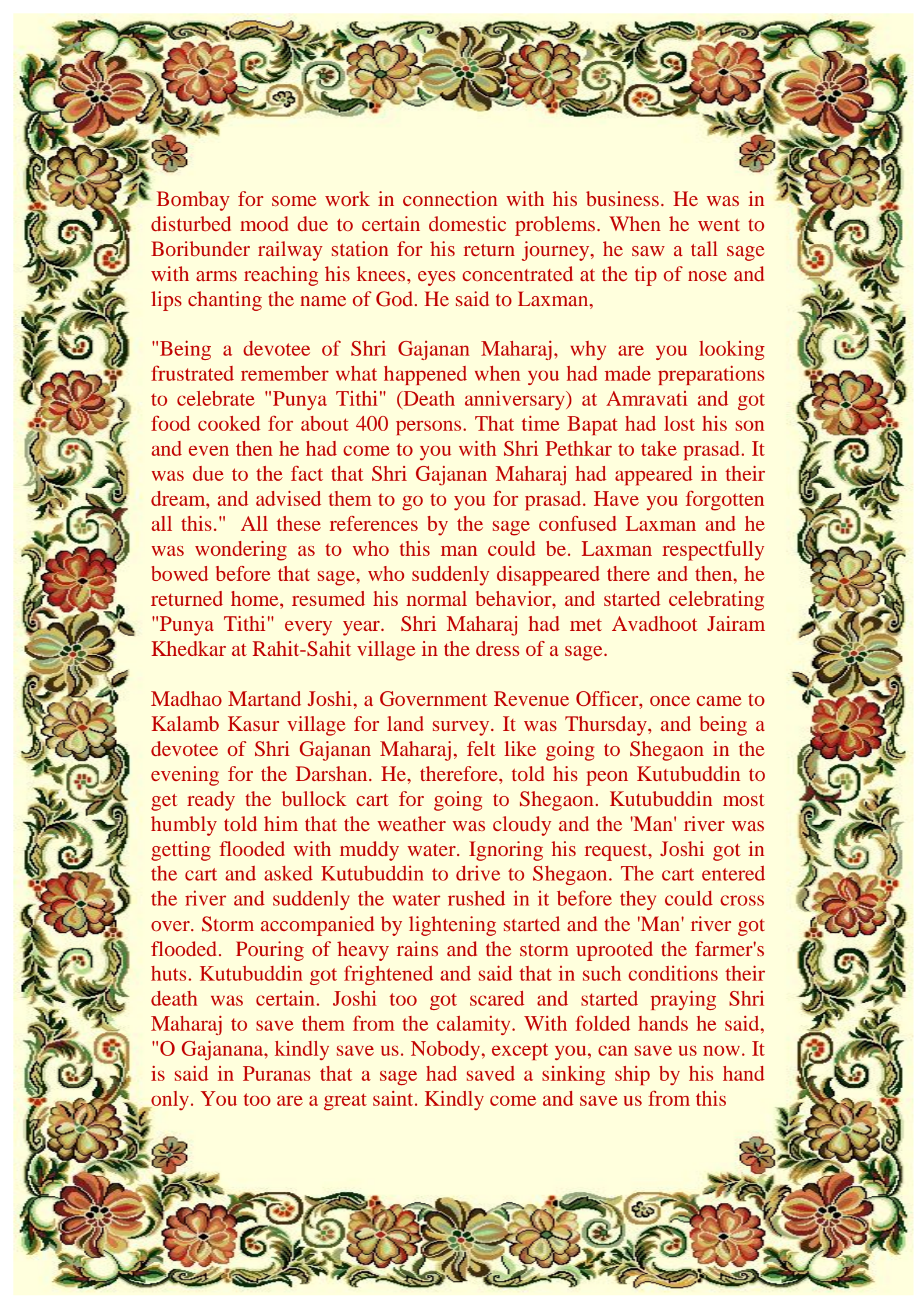
Shegaon branch of Rayali Company. It was his daily routine to go to Samadhi of Shri Maharaj in the evening, and sit there in meditation for some time. Once, while sitting there, he wished that on Vijay Dashami day (Dasera), he should perform Abhisheka to Shri Maharaj and feed some Brahmins. Accordingly he made all arrangements and sent sufficient ration and grocery to the Math. His wife did not like it and said, "O Sir, what are you doing this ? It is a waste of money. Tomorrow being a Vijaya Dashami day, you should in fact, purchase some new clothes for our children. All this spending on Abhisheka and Brahmins is not good. We have got our own children to feed, and I don't have a gram of ornament to wear. Does it befit a family man ? You are supposed to save some money for the family and our future also." Ganapatrao did not like this sort of advice from his wife and told her that he treated divine truth (Parmarth) supreme than the domestic life.

Same night Shri Maharaj appeared in the dream of his wife and told her, "Don't harass your husband any more. Let him do what he likes, and you are not going to loss anything by that. Don't have love and attachment for the transient things. At the end all this money will stay here and only the good and bad deeds will accompany you. Abhisheka and feeding of Brahmins is a good deed as it involves sacrifice, and is something that is done for others. Money spent on it is never wasted. It is like a seed sowed in the earth. So I tell you not to obstruct him."

Next morning she told about this dream to her husband who was very happy to know it. He then advised her to have full faith about the continuing existence of Shri Maharaj in Shegaon, and also to believe that all these children, money and everything belonged to Shri Maharaj and therefore, stop worrying about them. Then Ganpatrao very happily offered the Puja to Shri Maharaj on the Dasere day and spent generously for it. Since then Shri Ganpatrao's faith in Shri Maharaj became more firm.

Now listen to the experience of Shri Laxman Hari Janjal.


Laxman was a devotee of Shri Gajanan Maharaj and had gone to



Bombay for some work in connection with his business. He was in disturbed mood due to certain domestic problems. When he went to Boribunder railway station for his return journey, he saw a tall sage with arms reaching his knees, eyes concentrated at the tip of nose and lips chanting the name of God. He said to Laxman,

"Being a devotee of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, why are you looking frustrated remember what happened when you had made preparations to celebrate "Punya Tithi" (Death anniversary) at Amravati and got food cooked for about 400 persons. That time Bapat had lost his son and even then he had come to you with Shri Pethkar to take prasad. It was due to the fact that Shri Gajanan Maharaj had appeared in their dream, and advised them to go to you for prasad. Have you forgotten all this." All these references by the sage confused Laxman and he was wondering as to who this man could be. Laxman respectfully bowed before that sage, who suddenly disappeared there and then, he returned home, resumed his normal behavior, and started celebrating "Punya Tithi" every year. Shri Maharaj had met Avadhoot Jairam Khedkar at Rahit-Sahit village in the dress of a sage.

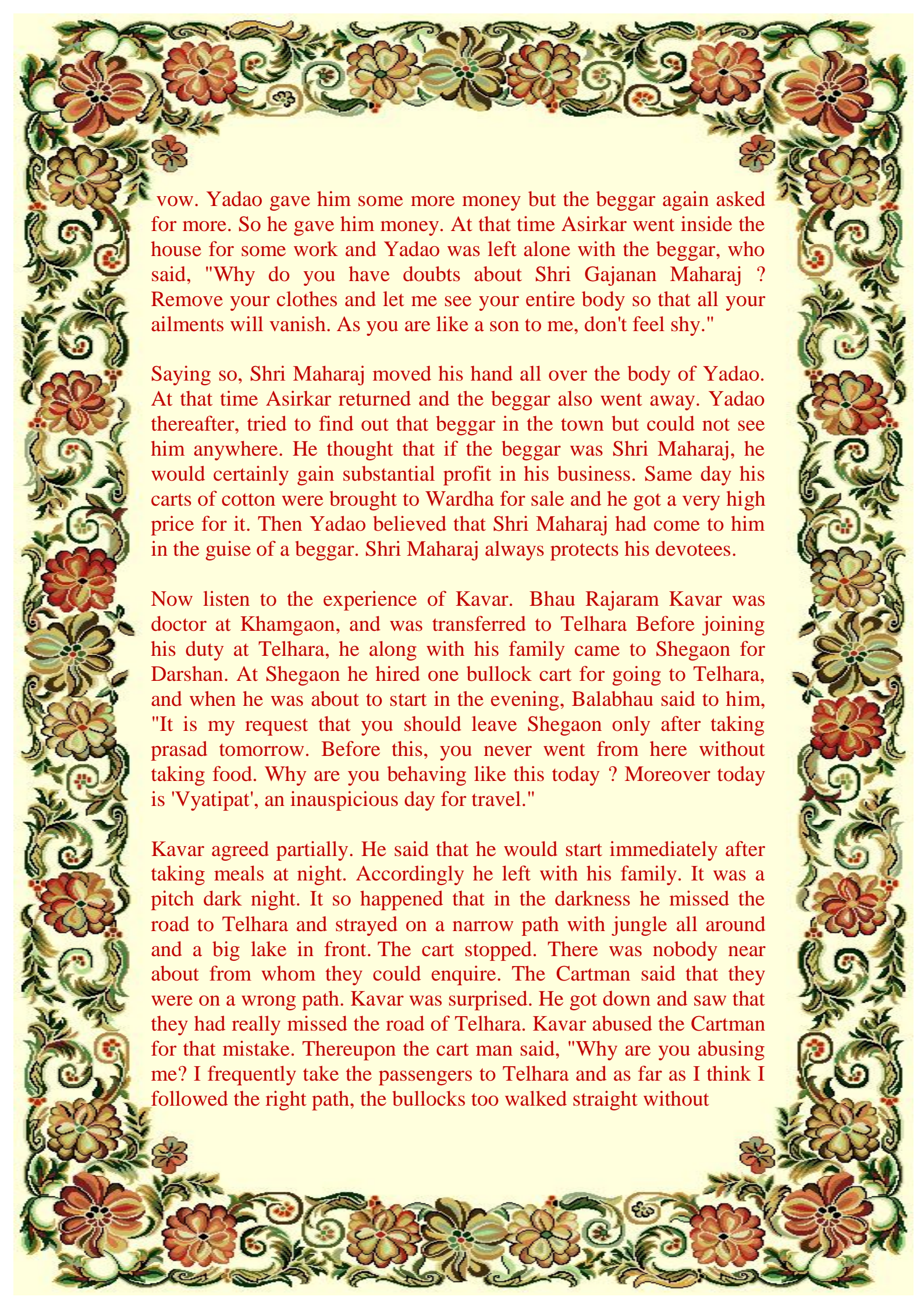
Madhao Martand Joshi, a Government Revenue Officer, once came to Kalamb Kasur village for land survey. It was Thursday, and being a devotee of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, felt like going to Shegaon in the evening for the Darshan. He, therefore, told his peon Kutubuddin to get ready the bullock cart for going to Shegaon. Kutubuddin most humbly told him that the weather was cloudy and the 'Man' river was getting flooded with muddy water. Ignoring his request, Joshi got in the cart and asked Kutubuddin to drive to Shegaon. The cart entered the river and suddenly the water rushed in it before they could cross over. Storm accompanied by lightening started and the 'Man' river got flooded. Pouring of heavy rains and the storm uprooted the farmer's huts. Kutubuddin got frightened and said that in such conditions their death was certain. Joshi too got scared and started praying Shri Maharaj to save them from the calamity. With folded hands he said, "O Gajananana, kindly save us. Nobody, except you, can save us now. It is said in Puranas that a sage had saved a sinking ship by his hand only. You too are a great saint. Kindly come and save us from this



flood." When water entered the cart, the bullocks too got frightened. Joshi told the peon to leave the reins and pray Shri Maharaj for help. Then he said to Shri Maharaj, "O all powerful Maharaj, our lives are in your hands, do as you like." Saying so the reins of the bullocks were thrown away and both of them closed their eyes. Then a miracle happened. The cart safely crossed the river and was seen standing on the other shore of it. Looking to that, both were happy to experience the authority of Shri Maharaj. They were thus saved from the flooded river. Joshi reached Shegaon at night, prostrated before the Samadhi of Shri Maharaj and attended evening procession. Next day, Joshi offered lot of charity and gave some money to Shri Balabhau for feeding Brahmins, as per his vow. Since Joshi had an urgent work to attend, he left Shegaon soon.

Yadao Ganesh Subhedar was a Cotton broker at Hingni. Once he suffered a loss of Rupees Ten Thousands in his business which affected his health very badly. He tried his best to re-establish and recover the loss, but failed. During that period he went to his friend Asirkar at Wardha. At that time a beggar came to Asirkar's house for some alms. He was dressed like a Marathi man with a big stick in his hand and a dirty cap on the head. He was trembling like an old man. Looking to him, Asirkar got annoyed and asked him to go and beg at the door of the house. The beggar ignoring his words entered the house and sat beside Yadao Subhedar. "Give me some alms." saying so the beggar held a bowl before Yadao. He wondered at the obstinacy of the beggar and looked at him minutely. He appeared like Shri Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon, with the same luster in the eyes and the speaking style too was the same. The only difference was that, this man was continuously shaking due to some disease. Face too was like Shri Maharaj, and Subhedar thought, "How can he be Shri Gajanan Maharaj who had taken Samadhi long back ? Whatever it may be, I should give him some money treating him to be Shri Gajanan Maharaj."

The beggar took the money and asked for more. He further told him to distribute Jaggery as per his vow to Shri Gajanan Maharaj, and said that the loss in the business was the result of his non-fulfillment of the

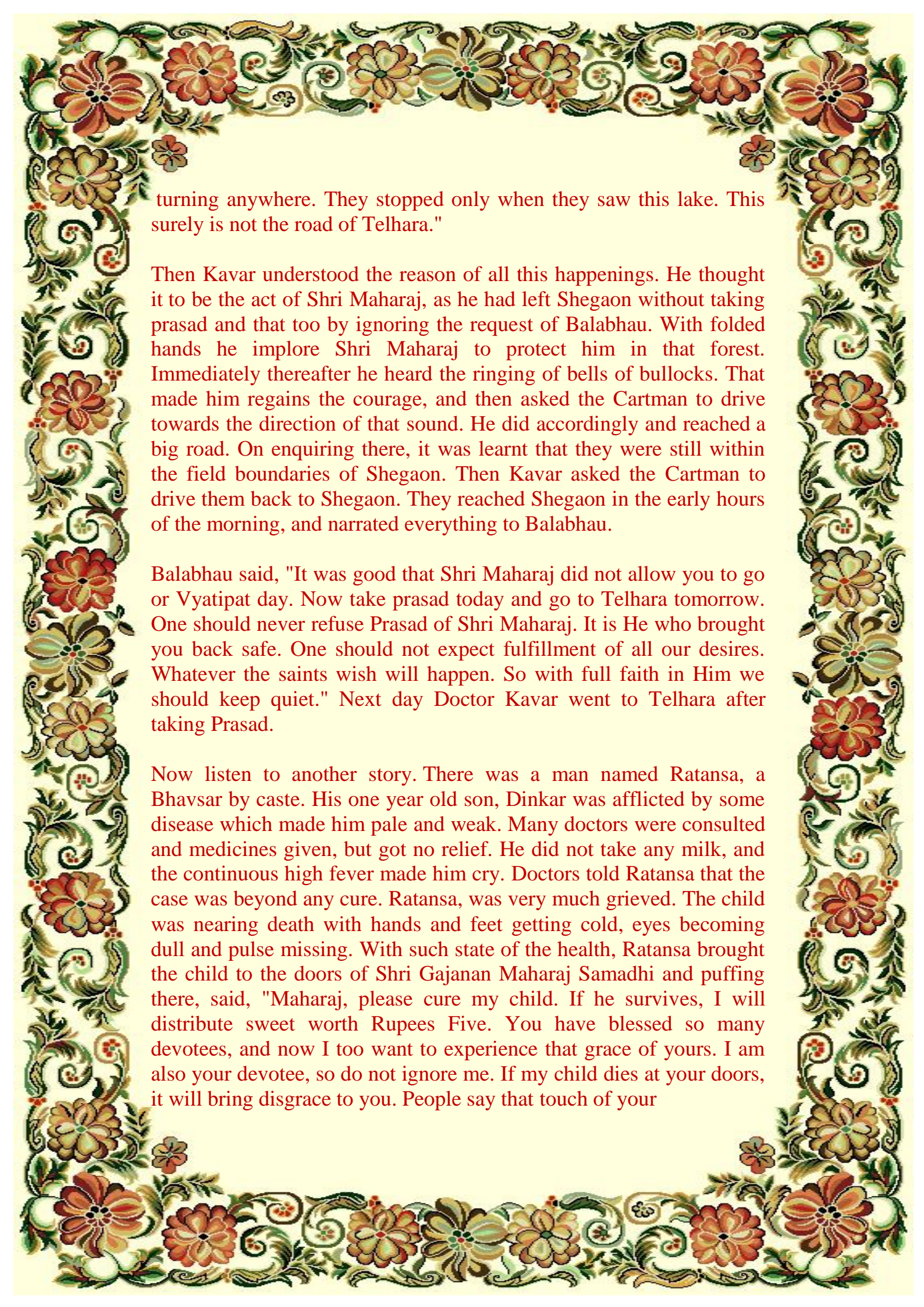


vow. Yadao gave him some more money but the beggar again asked for more. So he gave him money. At that time Asirkar went inside the house for some work and Yadao was left alone with the beggar, who said, "Why do you have doubts about Shri Gajanan Maharaj ? Remove your clothes and let me see your entire body so that all your ailments will vanish. As you are like a son to me, don't feel shy."

Saying so, Shri Maharaj moved his hand all over the body of Yadao. At that time Asirkar returned and the beggar also went away. Yadao thereafter, tried to find out that beggar in the town but could not see him anywhere. He thought that if the beggar was Shri Maharaj, he would certainly gain substantial profit in his business. Same day his carts of cotton were brought to Wardha for sale and he got a very high price for it. Then Yadao believed that Shri Maharaj had come to him in the guise of a beggar. Shri Maharaj always protects his devotees.

Now listen to the experience of Kavar. Bhau Rajaram Kavar was doctor at Khamgaon, and was transferred to Telhara. Before joining his duty at Telhara, he along with his family came to Shegaon for Darshan. At Shegaon he hired one bullock cart for going to Telhara, and when he was about to start in the evening, Balabhau said to him, "It is my request that you should leave Shegaon only after taking prasad tomorrow. Before this, you never went from here without taking food. Why are you behaving like this today ? Moreover today is 'Vyatipat', an inauspicious day for travel."

Kavar agreed partially. He said that he would start immediately after taking meals at night. Accordingly he left with his family. It was a pitch dark night. It so happened that in the darkness he missed the road to Telhara and strayed on a narrow path with jungle all around and a big lake in front. The cart stopped. There was nobody near about from whom they could enquire. The Cartman said that they were on a wrong path. Kavar was surprised. He got down and saw that they had really missed the road of Telhara. Kavar abused the Cartman for that mistake. Thereupon the cart man said, "Why are you abusing me? I frequently take the passengers to Telhara and as far as I think I followed the right path, the bullocks too walked straight without




turning anywhere. They stopped only when they saw this lake. This surely is not the road of Telhara."

Then Kavar understood the reason of all this happenings. He thought it to be the act of Shri Maharaj, as he had left Shegaon without taking prasad and that too by ignoring the request of Balabhau. With folded hands he implore Shri Maharaj to protect him in that forest. Immediately thereafter he heard the ringing of bells of bullocks. That made him regains the courage, and then asked the Cartman to drive towards the direction of that sound. He did accordingly and reached a big road. On enquiring there, it was learnt that they were still within the field boundaries of Shegaon. Then Kavar asked the Cartman to drive them back to Shegaon. They reached Shegaon in the early hours of the morning, and narrated everything to Balabhau.

Balabhau said, "It was good that Shri Maharaj did not allow you to go or Vyatipat day. Now take prasad today and go to Telhara tomorrow. One should never refuse Prasad of Shri Maharaj. It is He who brought you back safe. One should not expect fulfillment of all our desires. Whatever the saints wish will happen. So with full faith in Him we should keep quiet." Next day Doctor Kavar went to Telhara after taking Prasad.

Now listen to another story. There was a man named Ratansa, a Bhavsar by caste. His one year old son, Dinkar was afflicted by some disease which made him pale and weak. Many doctors were consulted and medicines given, but got no relief. He did not take any milk, and the continuous high fever made him cry. Doctors told Ratansa that the case was beyond any cure. Ratansa, was very much grieved. The child was nearing death with hands and feet getting cold, eyes becoming dull and pulse missing. With such state of the health, Ratansa brought the child to the doors of Shri Gajanan Maharaj Samadhi and puffing there, said, "Maharaj, please cure my child. If he survives, I will distribute sweet worth Rupees Five. You have blessed so many devotees, and now I too want to experience that grace of yours. I am also your devotee, so do not ignore me. If my child dies at your doors, it will bring disgrace to you. People say that touch of your

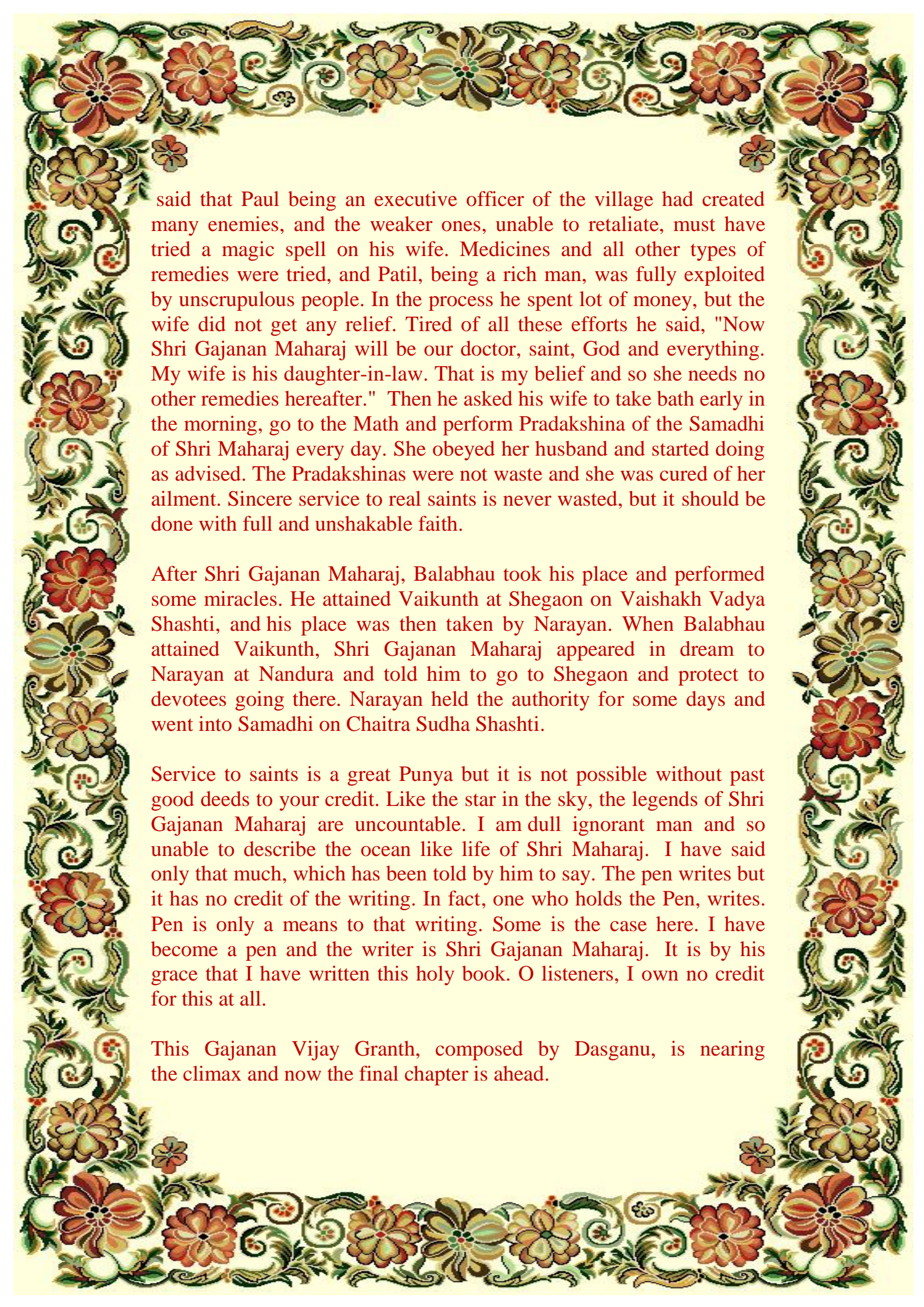


feet is like nectar, so please oblige me by your blessings. And if my son dies, I will break my head at your doors. O Gajanan, the great look to me by your nectar like glance and save the child."

A little later on, the child moved and started crying. All were surprised and happy to see the miracle. It was all by the grace of Shri Maharaj. What can darkness do before the Sun ? In few days, Dinkar was fully normal, hale and hearty. It was the result of the vow which was taken with full faith. Similarly by the grace of Shri Gajanan Maharaj, Dada Kolhatkar got a son whose name is Raja. The grace of the saint has no limits.

Sixteen year old Chandrabhaga, daughter of Shri Ramchandra Patil had difficult delivery. Generally delivery is a great painful affair for womanhood. As per tradition she came from Ladegaon to her mother's place for the delivery. After delivery she was running temperature for some days. It was declare to be the case of typhoid. Many doctors treated her fever did not come down She was therefore, taken to Akola for better treatment. Every doctor diagnose her illness differently and there was no unanimity in their opinion. Tired of the treatment without any result, Patil decided to surrender to Shri Maharaj for her treatment. He started giving her Udi and Tirtha every day and implore Shri Maharaj to cure her. With his great faith in Shri Maharaj, Chandrabhaga showed signs of recovery. The lady, who once could not move from her bed was now able to go to the Samadhi of Shri Maharaj for Darshan. That was the effect of udi and Tirtha of Shri Maharaj. God always blesses them, who have real faith in him. The devotee therefore, should have full unshakable faith in the subject of his worship.

Janakabai, wife of Ramchandra, could not escape the sufferings destined for her. Due to the gastric trouble, she used to have continuous stomach ache. The medicines used to give only temporary relief, and her suffering continued. At last the ailment affected her brain and she was behaving like a lunatic. She lost control on what she said and at times lost sense of hunger also. Some said that evil spirits haunted her, while others dig nosed it as some sort of disease. They



said that Paul being an executive officer of the village had created many enemies, and the weaker ones, unable to retaliate, must have tried a magic spell on his wife. Medicines and all other types of remedies were tried, and Patil, being a rich man, was fully exploited by unscrupulous people. In the process he spent lot of money, but the wife did not get any relief. Tired of all these efforts he said, "Now Shri Gajanan Maharaj will be our doctor, saint, God and everything. My wife is his daughter-in-law. That is my belief and so she needs no other remedies hereafter." Then he asked his wife to take bath early in the morning, go to the Math and perform Pradakshina of the Samadhi of Shri Maharaj every day. She obeyed her husband and started doing as advised. The Pradakshinas were not waste and she was cured of her ailment. Sincere service to real saints is never wasted, but it should be done with full and unshakable faith.

After Shri Gajanan Maharaj, Balabhau took his place and performed some miracles. He attained Vaikunth at Shegaon on Vaishakh Vadya Shashti, and his place was then taken by Narayan. When Balabhau attained Vaikunth, Shri Gajanan Maharaj appeared in dream to Narayan at Nandura and told him to go to Shegaon and protect to devotees going there. Narayan held the authority for some days and went into Samadhi on Chaitra Sudha Shashti.

Service to saints is a great Punya but it is not possible without past good deeds to your credit. Like the star in the sky, the legends of Shri Gajanan Maharaj are uncountable. I am dull ignorant man and so unable to describe the ocean like life of Shri Maharaj. I have said only that much, which has been told by him to say. The pen writes but it has no credit of the writing. In fact, one who holds the Pen, writes. Pen is only a means to that writing. Some is the case here. I have become a pen and the writer is Shri Gajanan Maharaj. It is by his grace that I have written this holy book. O listeners, I own no credit for this at all.

This Gajanan Vijay Granth, composed by Dasganu, is nearing the climax and now the final chapter is ahead.

"Shubham Bhavatu"
"Shri Hari Hararpanamastu"

Here is the End of Chapter Twenty.

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Compiled by : Shravan Pande, Shegaon, India.

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