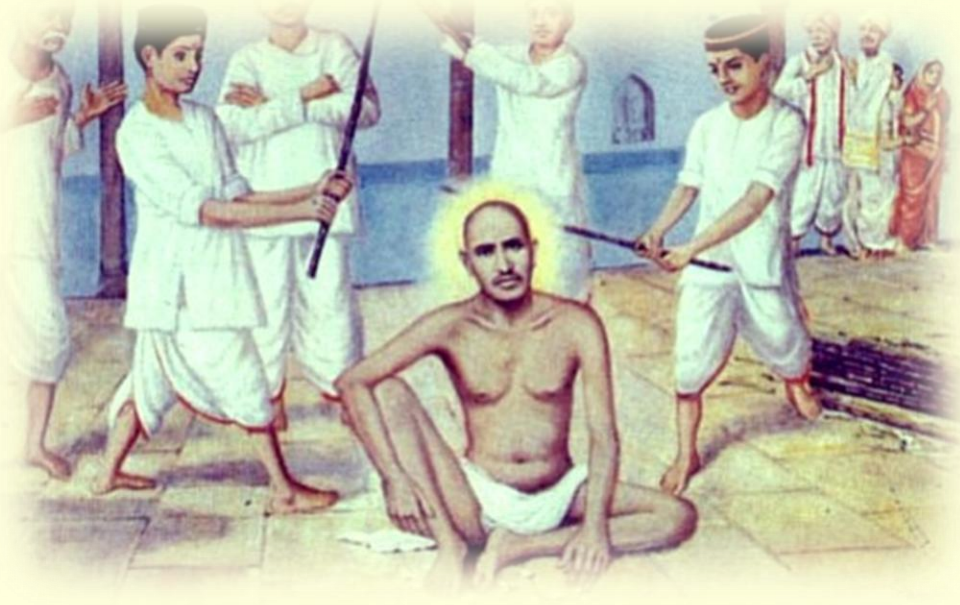



* CHAPTER SEVEN *



Shri Ganeshay Namaha ! Jay to you, Rama, Meghashyama, Sitapate, Dasharathe, you are refuge to the saints. It was by your blessings that the monkeys gained strength and defeated Ravana in Lanka. Your blessings always bring victory and fulfillment of all desires. A favourite of the King, howsoever incapable he may be, becomes lovable to the ministers. Am I suitable for such a favour ? With this question, O Panduranga, I realize that my condition is most pitiable as I lack real knowledge and devotion. My mind is always unsteady, suspicious and full of desires. With all this, how can I expect to get your favor? Logically it is all right, but O God, even Puranas say that you have got a genuine liking for the Sinners. It is no wonder if you liberate the pious ones. But real greatness lies in saving a sinner. Since there is nobody greater than you in this world, I invoke you to ignore my sins and bless me. O Narayana, accept this Dasganu who has surrendered at your feet and uphold your greatness.

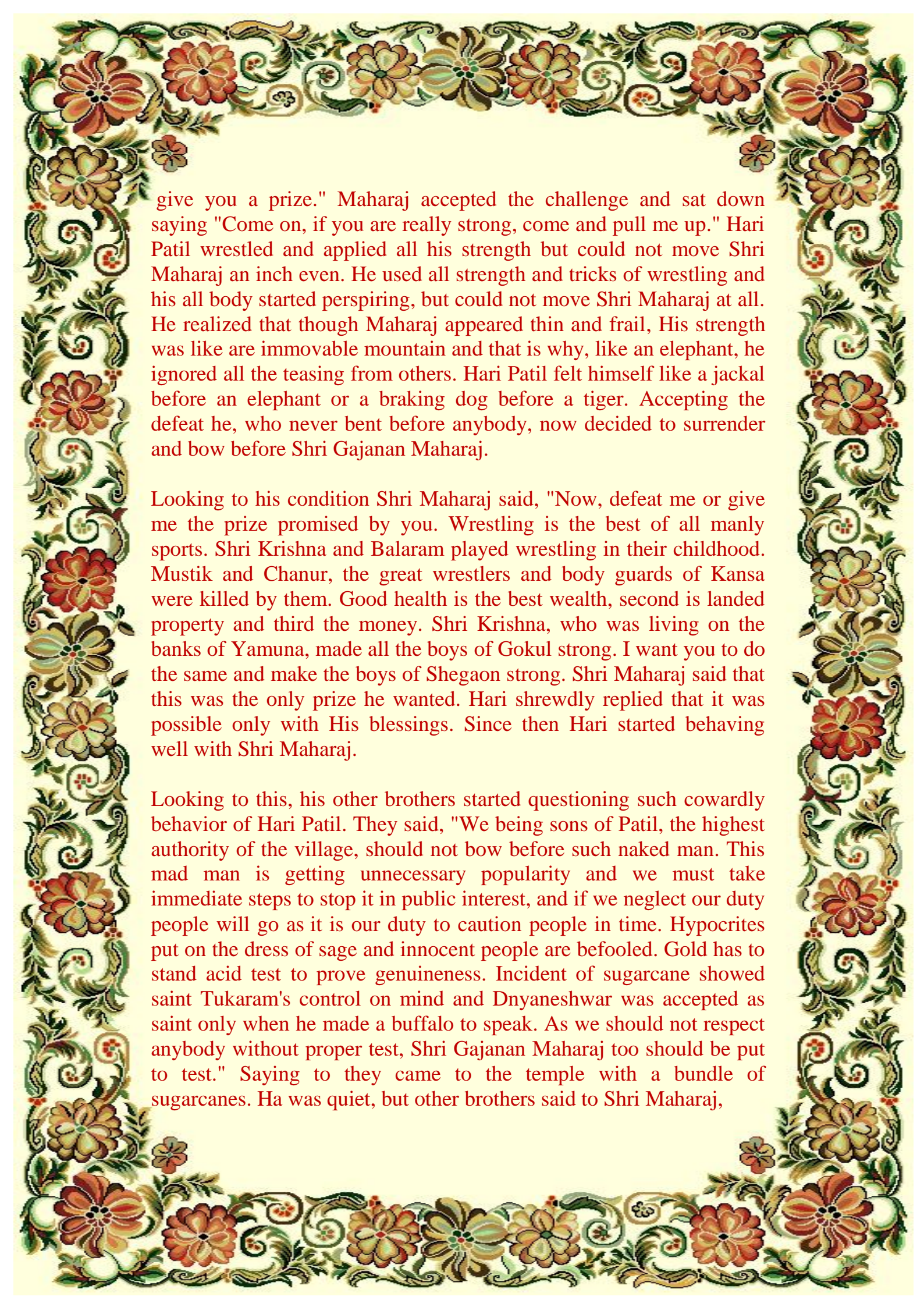
Under the leadership of Khanderao Patil, all the villagers actively participated in the function at Hanuman temple. These Patil people have an ancient heritage of wealth and landed property. Devotion to saints and sages has been their family tradition and now with the authority of village head, this worshipping is done with greater enthusiasm. Mahadji Patil had two sons, Kadtaji and Kukaji. Kukaji,



the younger was a great devotee of Pandurang of Pandharpur. The family had the blessings of Shri Gomaji Maharaj of Nagzari. Kadtaji Patil had Six Sons and Kukaji none. After the death of Kadtaji Patil, Kukaji did the bringing up of these six children as his own, and also brought great prosperity to the family. After Kukaji, Khandu Patil became the head of the family. He was a terror to the village and used his authority fearlessly. He had five brothers, Ganapat, Narayan, Maruti, Hari and Krishnaji. In addition to the authority of Patil, wielded by him, he possessed lot of wealth too. All the brothers were fond of regular exercise, playing swords & sticks. Hari Patil liked wrestling. For name's sake the celebrations were for Lord Hanuman, but in fact everybody was interested in pleasing the Patil. The attitude of the Patil was rude and unreasonable which frequently resulted in quarrels and dispute in Shegaon. He abused everybody and did not spare even the saints.

Patil, with his brothers, went to the temple of Lord Hanuman and started jesting Shri Gajanan Maharaj by making bad puns on his name. One of them even challenged Maharaj to come out for wrestling and prove the greatness bestowed upon Him by the people. The brothers asked Shri Maharaj to prove His greatness, and failing which should get ready for beatings at their hands. Shri Maharaj just laughed away their remarks and never got angry. Looking to all this rude behavior of Patil brothers, Shri Bhaskara said, "Maharaj, let us go to Akoli, away from these insolent boys, corrupted by their strength, money and power". Shri Maharaj replied, "Bhaskara, wait a bit. All these Patil brothers are my great devotees. They lack modesty but see them closely to know their affection for me. They are just like my sons and already have got blessings from the saints. Executive power generally is accompanied by rudeness. How can a tiger behave like a cow ? Can fire be ever cold? Sword will be useless if it is soft. After some time this insolence will disappear as muddy water of rainy seasons become clear in winter."


One day Hari Patil came to the temple and said to Shri Gajanan, "come on wrestle with me and I will defeat you, Don't sit quiet chanting "Gan Gan Gana Bote". All people praise you and I want to test that greatness of yours today. If you defeat me in wrestling, I will



give you a prize." Maharaj accepted the challenge and sat down saying "Come on, if you are really strong, come and pull me up." Hari Patil wrestled and applied all his strength but could not move Shri Maharaj an inch even. He used all strength and tricks of wrestling and his all body started perspiring, but could not move Shri Maharaj at all. He realized that though Maharaj appeared thin and frail, His strength was like an immovable mountain and that is why, like an elephant, he ignored all the teasing from others. Hari Patil felt himself like a jackal before an elephant or a braying dog before a tiger. Accepting the defeat he, who never bent before anybody, now decided to surrender and bow before Shri Gajanan Maharaj.

Looking to his condition Shri Maharaj said, "Now, defeat me or give me the prize promised by you. Wrestling is the best of all manly sports. Shri Krishna and Balaram played wrestling in their childhood. Mustik and Chanur, the great wrestlers and body guards of Kansa were killed by them. Good health is the best wealth, second is landed property and third the money. Shri Krishna, who was living on the banks of Yamuna, made all the boys of Gokul strong. I want you to do the same and make the boys of Shegaon strong. Shri Maharaj said that this was the only prize he wanted. Hari shrewdly replied that it was possible only with His blessings. Since then Hari started behaving well with Shri Maharaj.


Looking to this, his other brothers started questioning such cowardly behavior of Hari Patil. They said, "We being sons of Patil, the highest authority of the village, should not bow before such naked man. This mad man is getting unnecessary popularity and we must take immediate steps to stop it in public interest, and if we neglect our duty people will go as it is our duty to caution people in time. Hypocrites put on the dress of sage and innocent people are befooled. Gold has to stand acid test to prove genuineness. Incident of sugarcane showed saint Tukaram's control on mind and Dnyaneshwar was accepted as saint only when he made a buffalo to speak. As we should not respect anybody without proper test, Shri Gajanan Maharaj too should be put to test." Saying to they came to the temple with a bundle of sugarcanes. He was quiet, but other brothers said to Shri Maharaj,



"You fool ! If you want eat these sugarcanes, fulfill our condition. We shall beat you with the sugarcanes and if this beating does not raise marks on your body then or we shall accept you as a Yogi."

Shri Maharaj smiled and ignored their talk as children's prattle. Maroti said, "He appears to be afraid of sugarcane beating." Ganapati said, "His silence implies acceptance to the beatings." Saying so all the brothers rushed and started beating Shri Maharaj with the sugarcanes. All people in the temple, except Bhaskar, started running away Bhaskar appealed to them to stop beating Shri Maharaj. He said, "Please do not beat him. You are born in Patil family and so should be kin to others. If you do not think him to be a great saint, treat him as a innocent man and ignore. Brave hunters always attack only tigers and never shoot at insects. Hanuman attacked and burnt Ravana's Lanka and not to hurts of poor people." The boys replied, "People of this village treat him as great saint, and therefore, want to test his greatness so you keep away." Saying so the boys started beating Shri Maharaj with the sugarcanes like farmer beating grain bunches for taking out grains. Shri Maharaj kept smiling and did not reply. The beating did not raise a single mark on His body. Looking to this fact the boys got afraid and bowed before Shri Maharaj saying that He was a real Yogi.

Shri Maharaj said, "O boys, your hands must be aching by beating me, and so to refresh you I will give you sugarcane juice." Saying so he took sugarcanes one by one and by his hands only twist and took out juice and gave it them to drink. Thus Shri Maharaj squeeze juice out of sugarcanes without any machine. The boys were very happy People said that this was possible due to the Yogic strength in Shri Maharaj By this miracle Shri Maharaj conveyed that if we want to make our nation strong, we must learn yoga. The boys prostrated before Shri Maharaj and went away. They told whole story to Khandu Patil saying that Shri Gajanan is really a God in Shegaon. He was surprised and started going to Shri Maharaj, built his rough way of speaking with Shri Maharaj did not change. He used to call Shri Maharaj as Ganya or Gajya. This calling a person in singular manner occurs in two cases. One when there is intimate love as between mother and child. Second is when a person speaks to his servants or poor people. Patil



is accustomed to speak in a singular manner as all the people in the village are his subject, and that was the reason that Khandu Patil called Shri Maharaj as Ganya or Gajya. But in his heart he had great respect and love for Shri Maharaj. It was just like a coconut that has hard and rough surface but inside there is sweet and tasty fennel.

Once Kukaji called Khandu Patil and said, "You always say that Shri Gajanan is a great saint, then why are you dumb before Him ? You have no child and since I am getting old, I very much like to see a grand child to me. You go and request Him to bless you with a child, If He is a real saint he will fulfill our desire. There upon Khandu Patil went to Lord Maroti temple and said to Shri Maharaj, "O Ganya, my uncle has grown old and desires to see me getting a child People call you saint, able to fulfill desires of his devotees and I wish you prove it by giving a child to me." Maharaj said, "It is good that you have begged for something from me. You have got power and money and you believe in your efforts. Then why are you asking me for this favor? You behave that power or money can give you anything, then why not get a child by your own efforts ? You have got lot of land, money, mills and shops and nobody disobeys you, then why don't you order Brahma to give you a child ? Khandu said, "This is something beyond human efforts. Crops need water to its growth, but bringing rains is not in the hands of human beings. That is why in famine lands lie dry. But once the rains come human efforts prove fruitful. Same is the case with me." At this Swamiji smiled and Said, "You have now begged for a child. Since is a begging I bless that you will get a son whom you should name "Bhikya". It is not entirely in my hands to give you a child, but I will request the Almighty to fulfill your desire. You will get a son and in return I ask you to feed mango juice to Brahmins every year as a token of your gratefulness. Khandu accepted it, went home and told this conversation to his uncle. Kukaji was very happy.

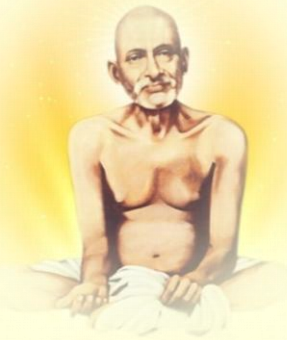
After some days Swamiji's blessing proved true and Khandu Patil got a son. He was very happy and Kukaji's happiness knew no bound. Khandu Patil distributed jiggery and wheat to the poor and sweets to the children of Shegaon. The child was rightly named Bhiku who like

a moon, we on growing. Khandu Patil as promised, fed Brahmins with Mango juice as this practice is still continued by his descendants. The child, by the grace of Shri Gajanan Maharaj started crawling in the house of Khandu Patil. Happiness of Patil made Deshmukh people unhappy as Shegaon was divided village since long. There were two rival groups in Shegaon One Patil's and the other of Deshmukh. They were always at daggers drawing searching for an opportunity to destroy each other. Two Pandits, two ministers, two fighters, two mechanics and two dogs when face to face, always fight. Same was the case with Patil and Deshmukh. After seeing the grand child, Kukaji died at Pandharpur on the bank of river Bhima, and Khandu Patil was sad to have lost his protector. Looking to Khandu Patil's state of mind Deshmukh exploited the opportunity to put Patil into trouble, the details of which will be narrated in the next chapter.

Please listen with open mind, this Gajanan Vijay, composed by Dasganu. May you be blessed with auspicious things.

"Shubham Bhavatu"
"Shri Hari Hararpanamastu"

Here is the End of Chapter Seven.



Compiled by : Shravan Pande, Shegaon, India.