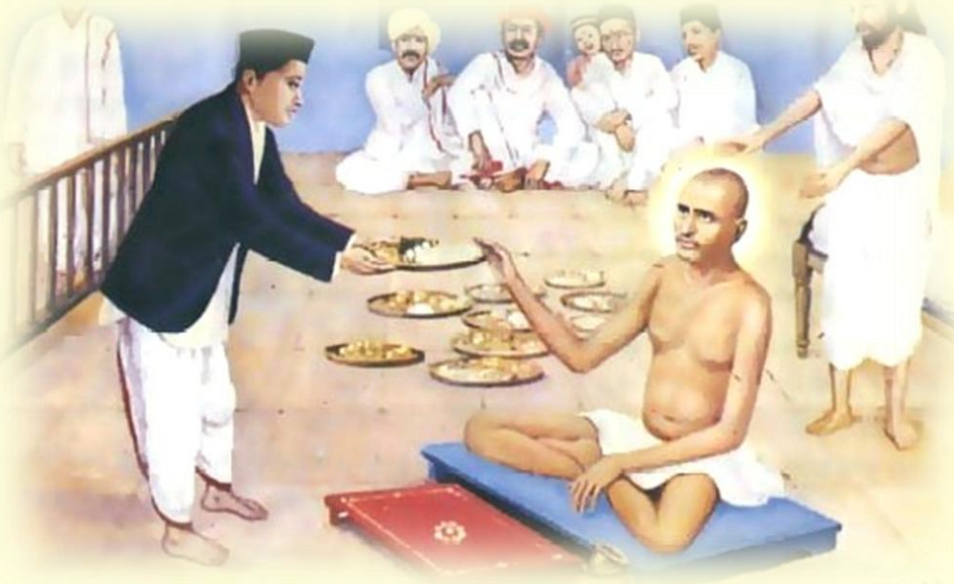



* CHAPTER SIXTEEN *



Shri Ganeshay Namaha ! O Parshudhara, son of Jamdagni, Jai to you. Please do not ignore me. Not bearing the insult to Brahmans you killed Sahasrarjun and protected your Brahmans. But now you seem to have closed your eyes to their plight. Are you asleep ? Please open your eyes as it is most necessary in the present emergent situation. All actions are useless without your support. This Aryan culture cannot be preserved without your help.

Mysterious are the actions of Shri Gajanan Maharaj and nobody can predict them. There was one devotee of Shri Maharaj at Mundgaon. His name was Pundalik. He used to go to Shegaon regularly on a fixed day every month, and was very much devoted to Shri Maharaj who was a prime deity for him. There was one Bhagabai in the same village, who could not concentrate on anything, as she had a wavering mind. In a way she was a great hypocrite and her only business was to befool people. She once said to Pundalik,


"Your life is wasted as you could not get any Guru so far. You go to Shegaon frequently and treat Shri Gajanan Maharaj as your Guru. But tell me, has he given you any Guru Mantra (i.e. secret - incantation which is whispered in the ear of devotee by the Guru)? Mind you, one does not become Guru without proper rituals. In fact this Gajanan of



Shegaon is a mad person, and you are accepting him as Guru only because you got relief from fever, it was a mere coincidence and you should not be a victim to that. His chanting of "Gan Gan Ganat", mad like behavior, and eating food at anybody's hands, all this confirm that he is a fallen person. So I have come to tell you that we shall go to Anjangaon and make Kekaji's disciple as our Guru. Early morning tomorrow we will go to attend his Kirtan at Anjangaon. Guru should be well read, learned, wise, expert in all Shastras, of high caliber and a guide to help you attain self realisation. None of these qualities are visible in your Gajanan, so let us go to Anjangaon". This talk of Bhagabai disturbed Pundalik, a pious man. He gave his consent to her for going to Anjangaon next morning. Pundalik, having decided as above, slept well. In the later half of the night he saw a person like Shri Gajanan Maharaj in his dream. He said, "Pundalika, you seem to have decided to go to Anjangaon with that Bhagabai for getting a Guru. You may go if you like. His name is Kashinath, and I tell you that you will be completely disappointed on going there. Can a person become Guru by whispering something in the ear ? Many people whisper in one another's ears. Does that mean that they become Guru of each other ? Pundalika, don't go after hypocrites. Come, listen to me. I will chant a Mantra in your ear." Saying so, he whispered - "Gan Gan" and kept quiet. He further told Pundalika to ask for anything and it would be done.

At these words, Pundalik felt very happy. He minutely observed the person in the dream and was glad to see that he was Shri Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon. Thereupon Pundalika asked for His 'Paduka' to worship and nothing else. Shri Maharaj said, "Take these Padukas and worship them tomorrow afternoon".

As Pundalika got up to take Padukas he awoke. He looked around, but there was nobody and no Padukas. He felt confused, but at the same time knew that the words of Shri Maharaj can never go waste. He remembered all that Shri Maharaj had said about Bhagabai, and also the instructions to worship the Padukas next day afternoon. If he has to follow the instructions of Shri Maharaj Padukas were necessary for worship, but he did not have them. He also thought of getting

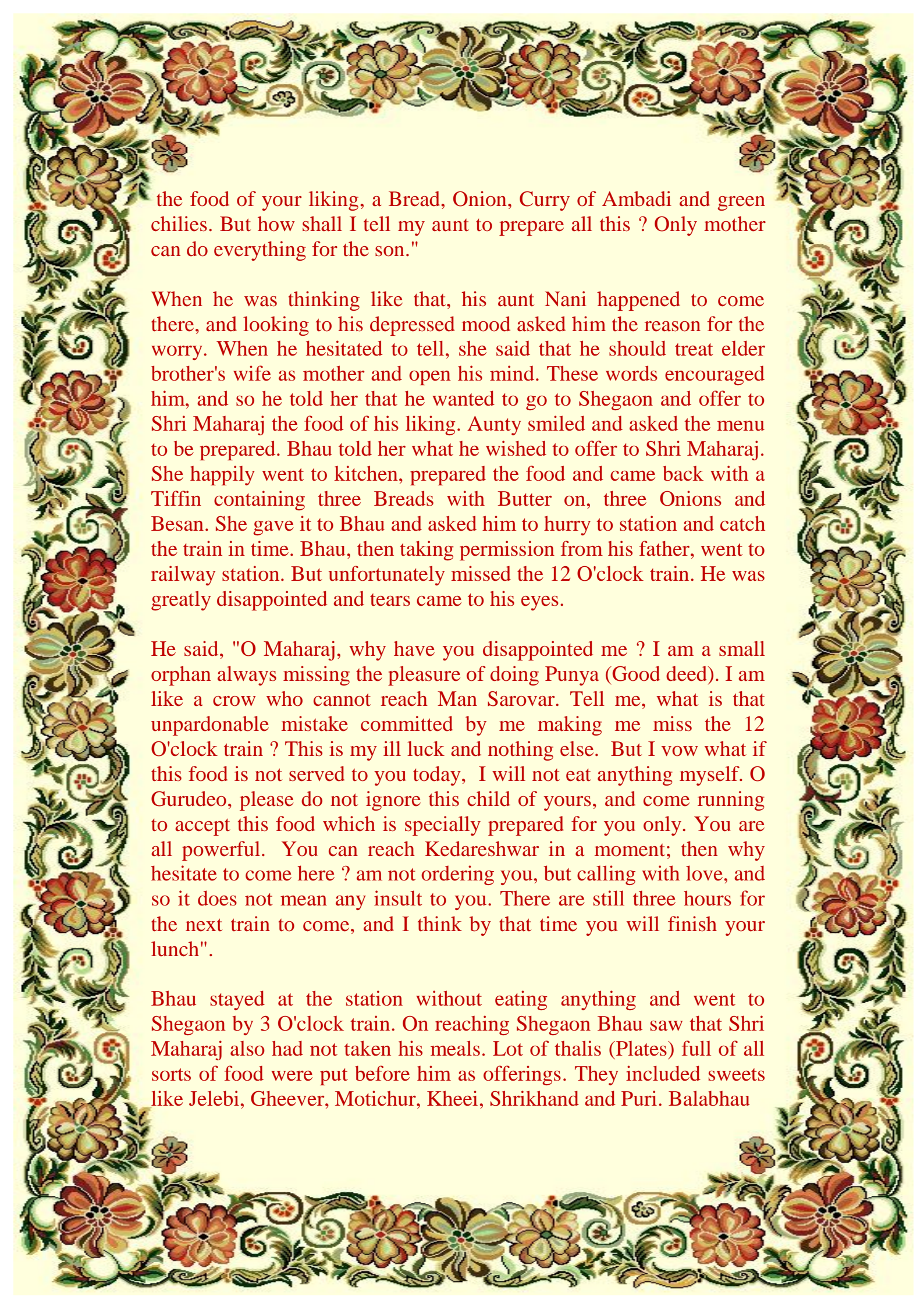


prepared new Padukas for worship, but again remembered that Shi Maharaj had given him, His own Padukas in the dream. Then why to prepare new ones ? While Pundalika was thinking like that, he heard Bhagabai calling him for going to Anjangaon. He refused to go with her saying that he would not accept anybody other than Shri Gajanan as Guru. So, Bhagabai went alone to Anjangaon.

Now listen to what happened at Shegaon. Just two days prior to this incident Zyamsingh Rajput had gone to Shegaon for the Darshan of Shri Maharaj. When he was about to leave for Mundgaon, Shri Maharaj called Balabhau and told him to send His (of Shri Maharaj) Padukas with Zyamsingh for handing over the same to Pundalika at Mundgaon. Balabhau did so. Zyamsingh took the Padukas and went. At Mundgaon Zyamsingh met Pundalik at the entrance of the village. He enquired of Zyamsingh if Shri Maharaj sent any Prasad for him. Zyamsingh was surprised. He took him home and asked the reason of his enquiring like that. Pundalik frankly told about his dream, which cleared the doubts in the mind of Zyamsingh. He immediately handed over the Paduka to Pundalik, and the same are still there with him, at Mundgaon. Pundalik, with great devotion worshipped those gifted Padukas in the afternoon. From this story it will be seen that, saints will never allow the devotees to go a wrong way.

Now listen to a story which shows as to how Shri Maharaj fulfill the desires of his devotees.

There was one Rajaram Kavar, a Brahmin at Akola, who was a dealer in gold and silver ornaments. This Rajaram had great faith in Shri Maharaj, and so his Sons also respected Shri Maharaj. He had two sons named Gopal and Trimbak. Trimbak, the younger, nick named as Bhau, was a student of Medical College at Hyderabad. He was a great believer right from his childhood, and so in times of any difficulty used to remember Shri Gajanan Maharaj. Thus he was the devotee of Shri Maharaj. He once came home in vacation and wished to offer meals of his liking to Shri Maharaj. But how to do it ? His mother had died when he was a child, and his brother's wife named Nani was hot tempered. He prayed to Shri Maharaj, "O Maharaj, I wish to offer you




the food of your liking, a Bread, Onion, Curry of Ambadi and green chilies. But how shall I tell my aunt to prepare all this ? Only mother can do everything for the son."

When he was thinking like that, his aunt Nani happened to come there, and looking to his depressed mood asked him the reason for the worry. When he hesitated to tell, she said that he should treat elder brother's wife as mother and open his mind. These words encouraged him, and so he told her that he wanted to go to Shegaon and offer to Shri Maharaj the food of his liking. Aunty smiled and asked the menu to be prepared. Bhau told her what he wished to offer to Shri Maharaj. She happily went to kitchen, prepared the food and came back with a Tiffin containing three Breads with Butter on, three Onions and Besan. She gave it to Bhau and asked him to hurry to station and catch the train in time. Bhau, then taking permission from his father, went to railway station. But unfortunately missed the 12 O'clock train. He was greatly disappointed and tears came to his eyes.

He said, "O Maharaj, why have you disappointed me ? I am a small orphan always missing the pleasure of doing Punya (Good deed). I am like a crow who cannot reach Man Sarovar. Tell me, what is that unpardonable mistake committed by me making me miss the 12 O'clock train ? This is my ill luck and nothing else. But I vow what if this food is not served to you today, I will not eat anything myself. O Gurudeo, please do not ignore this child of yours, and come running to accept this food which is specially prepared for you only. You are all powerful. You can reach Kedareshwar in a moment; then why hesitate to come here ? am not ordering you, but calling with love, and so it does not mean any insult to you. There are still three hours for the next train to come, and I think by that time you will finish your lunch".

Bhau stayed at the station without eating anything and went to Shegaon by 3 O'clock train. On reaching Shegaon Bhau saw that Shri Maharaj also had not taken his meals. Lot of thalis (Plates) full of all sorts of food were put before him as offerings. They included sweets like Jelebi, Gheever, Motichur, Kheei, Shrikhand and Puri. Balabhau



brought and put these plates before Shri Maharaj and requested him to take the food, so that the devotees would get Prasad, but he did not touch any of them. Shri Maharaj said that he would take his food in the evening and the persons offering this food to him, may, if they like, wait or go away. Bhau reached there and was immensely happy to see Shri Maharaj like a child seeing a long lost mother. Bhau prostrated before Shri Maharaj and stood up with folded hands awaiting further orders from his Guru. Looking to Bhau, He smiled and said, "What sort of invitation is this ? Is it time for taking food ? As I was bound by your invitation, I am still without food. Now, give it to me immediately."

Bhau was overjoyed at these words, and said that the delay in reaching was due to his missing the 12 O'clock train. Balabhau then asked Bhau to serve the food to Shri Maharaj early without feeling sorry for whatever had happened. Then Balabhau took out, Breads, Bhaji and Onions and offered it to Shri Maharaj who ate two Breads and gave back one as Prasad to all devotees. Looking at this, all were surprised to see the love and affection Shri Maharaj had for his devotee, it was just like Shrikrishna, who preferred to stay with Vidur and accept the poor food at his place instead of sweets of Kauravas. Similarly Shri Maharaj waited for the bread from Bhau Kavar, declining all the rich food and sweet brought by other devotees. Bhau also took Prasad from Shri Maharaj.

Where ever there is sincere devotion, such things do happen. Shri Mahara asked Bhau to go back to Akola and blessed that he would pass the medical examination. Bhau replied that he had come only for blessings, and not to asking any things else. He further said that his wealth was the only feet of Shri Maharaj, which he would ever cherish in his mind. Saying so, Bhau Kavar went back to Akola.

There was a pious person named Tukaram Shegokar at Shegaon. He was poor agriculturist. After working whole day on his field he used to go to Math for Darshan of Shri Maharaj, and serve Him by filling up his pipe with tobacco and other sundry work. This routine of his, continued for many days. Destiny spares nobody, and destined things

do happen.

As usual, one day Tukaram went to his field. There came a hunter with a gun in his hand, in search of rabbits. It was a morning time and Tukaram was sitting in his field warming himself near fire. The hunter saw behind him was sitting a white rabbit near a bush, and it. He took up his gun, aimed at the rabbit and fired. The rabbit was killed, but a small shot hit Tukaram behind the ear and entered in this head. Doctors tried, but failed to take it out. As a result of this, he got continuous pain in the head and could not get sleep also. He then offered vows to God but did not get any relief. He continued to go the Math in that condition also. One of the devotees in the Math advised him to stop taking medicines, and start offering sincere service to Shri Maharaj, like sweeping the floors of the Math, to get his blessings which only would give him cure for the ailment. Tukaram agreed and started sweeping the floors daily and kept the Math clean like mirror. This service of his continued for 14 years, and one fine day, while sweeping the floor, the shot which had entered his head, slipped out from his ear and fell down. Suddenly the pain in his head also vanished. This was certainly the result of the service rendered to Shri Maharaj for those 14 years. He continued his service of sweeping the floors of Math throughout his life. Spiritual belief generally generates from self experience and then it remains firm. The service offered to the saints never go waste.

May this Shri Gajanan Vijay epic prove a savior to the devotees in this ocean of life.

"Shubham Bhavatu"
"Shri Hari Hararpanamastu"

Here is the End of Chapter Sixteen.



Compiled by : Shravan Pande, Shegaon, India.

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