

A slogan in praise of God Ramachandra.
He recited lines from 'Psalms of Mind.'
Saying how the touch of Ram's feet changed a rock
back to Ahalya and she attained bliss ... 34

These were compositions of Ramdas.
Balkrishna saw the saint reciting the lines
Standing there long armed and bare bodied.
He bowed down and looked up again
And saw Ramdas in that place.
Balkrishna was overwhelmed with love and affection
Of Ramdas in keeping up his assertions.
His eyes were filled with tears of elation ... 35

A moment later it was the saint
And then Ramdas Swami again.
The appearances flipped flopped alternately
Just like trick scenes in a movie.
Balkrishna was bewildered
And could not understand the mystery.
Saint Gajanan said, 'Be unperturbed
I am your Ramdas Swami.' ... 36

'I lived in Sajjangad in the past.
Now I reside in the garden at Shegaon.
As per promise given to you last year
I have come to meet you here.
Don't harbor any doubts in your mind.
Soul remains the same while bodies change.
Remember what the Geeta says.
Come now offer a seat to me.' ... 37

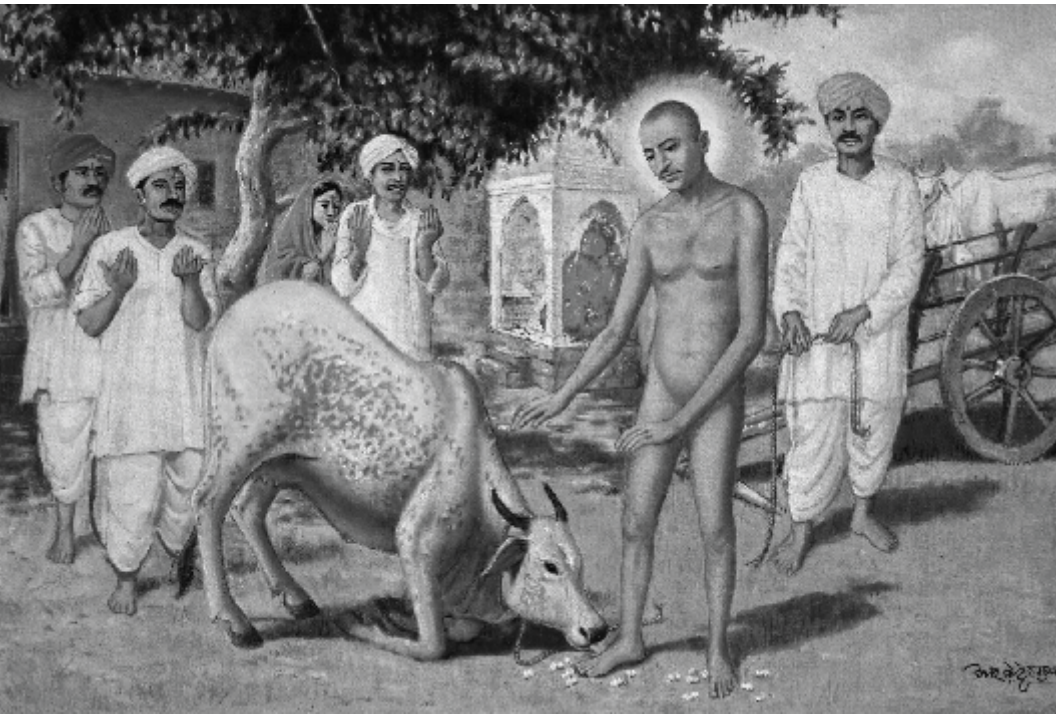
Shree Gajanan Maharaj held Balkrishna's hand,
Entered the house and sat on the seat called 'pat'.
The news of saint's arrival spread like wild fire
Folks flocked at the door to have a glimpse of the seer.
Balkrishna adored the saint musing over his statement.
At night Sant Ramdas appeared in his dreams and said,
'Saint Gajanan is my incarnation.

Harbor no suspicion. It may harm you.
Worshipping him will win my admiration.' ... 38

After seeing the dream, with great respect
Balkrishna bowed down to the saint and said,
'You have removed all my doubts
By appearing in my dream.
I am now satisfied with my celebration of Navami.
Please do me a favor, Stay here for a few days.'
Which the saint did and went back to Shegaon
And was not seen by anyone on the way ... 39

May this treatise bring happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Ten



She went around him thrice with her head hung
And licked his feet with her tongue.
People were surprised to see her behavior.
The saint talked to the cow in a humble demeanor,
'O cow don't any more bother anyone
And live here only from now on.'
When this happened people raised cheers
In praise of Shree Gajanan the seer

Chapter 10

Shree Ganeshay namah

O lord of the cosmos, Deity of Pandharpur.
You are formless and complete in yourself.
You are the protector of the virtuous' merits.
Please don't push me away from your feet.
O Narayan, do not disown me nor think of my sins.
There are no pious deeds to my credit.
As such I don't deserve to come near you.
In spite of all this please accept and oblige me ... 1

Accept me like holy Godavari
Which lets in the small tributaries.
With that you will save me
From my grief and all my sins.
You are all powerful
And if you wish you can do anything.
Even a pauper becomes rich
With your kind blessings ... 2

Once Gajanan Maharaj went to Amaravati
To stay with Shree Atmaram Bhikaji.
Atmaram was Kayastha Prabhu by caste,
Held an important office in the ranks.
He was pious and very devoted
And adored saints to a immeasurably
He worshipped the Saint offering him a bath,
Anointing him with sandalwood paste ... 3

He offered the Saint a silk bordered dhoti from Umred.
Applied a saffron dot on his forehead.
He was honored with flower wreaths
And various dishes savory and sweet
With cash offering of one hundred Rupees.
This was followed by aarati and incense agarbatti.
Fragrant flowers were put on his head.
All those present wished he was their guest ... 4

Though many desired, only few would have the favor
As it requires a lot of pious deeds to one's credit
To get the saint to one's houses to touch his holy feet.
The saint understood things with his divine power
And visited only those who had intrinsic merit.
There was a leading lawyer in Amaravai
Named Ganesh Shrikrishna Khaparde. He was wealthy,
Called Dadasaheb of the Shukla Yajurvedi Brahmin society
... 5

Maharaj went to him at his request
He was offered due respect.
There was one Ganesh Appa, a Lingayat Wani
Who had a devoted wife named Chandrabai.
She told to her husband that some how
The saint should visit their house.
She asked Ganesh Appa to go and request
The saint to come to visit their tenement ... 6

She said, 'If our thoughts are pious
The Saint will be agreed to visit us
Because God is always gracious
To devotees He deems precious.'
Said Ganesh Appa, 'It's foolish to think so.
It requires lot of recommendation
From people of influence
To arrange a visit of the saint ... 7

Look at the troubles Dadasaheb had to face
For taking the saint to his place.

In view of this please don't press the issue further.'
Said Chandrabai, 'I don't agree with this.
My mind says he will come to us.
The saints have a special affinity for the poor.
Thus go and try once and request him
To grace us with his visit valuable.' ... 8

Ganesh Appa could not gather courage
To put forward his humble request
But Maharaj read his mind and said,
'I wish to come to your house.
Please tell me how far it is from here.
You should not hesitate to open your mind
And tell me what you want.
Come; take me to your place.' ... 9

Ganesh Appa's joy knew no bounds
He took Maharaj to his house.
They respectfully worshipped him
And offered him all their belongings.
Much such worship was offered at Amaravati.
Present each time was a humble personality.
He was the nephew of Atmaram Bhikaji
Working as telegraph master in Mumbai ... 10

Balabhau had come on leave to see
His maternal uncle Atmaram Bhikaji.
He felt a great attachment
To the Saint Shree Gajanan.
And did not want to leave him for a moment.
He thought of mundane attachments
As purely transient
And decided on renouncing family commitments ... 11

These thoughts made him stay with Maharaj.
Who would reject nectar and take poison?
He attended all worship in Amaravati
With no other reason behind it.
After a few days the saint returned

To the Shegaon temple
Instead of the garden where he was earlier ... 12

To the east of the temple was a vacant lot
Maharaj went and occupied the spot.
Krishnaji got the news of saint's coming
And abandoning the earlier garden setting.
He came and prostrated before the saint
And sat there with his head bowed.
With tears in his eyes he wondered
Why the saint didn't return to the garden ... 13

'Why are you weeping? What's the grief?'
Asked Maharaj, 'Tell me quick.'
Patil with folded hands asked Gajanan,
'Why did you not return to the garden?
What is my unpardonable offence?
I am just a child. Please remove the suspense.
You are sitting on a piece of land
Which belongs to the gardener of the Deshmukh clan. ... 14

Please don't stay here. If you so wish
Come to my house. I will vacate it in a minute.
O saint, let me be clear.
I will give up everything for you to be there.'
When Patil brothers knew he came
They arrived with a request that he stays with them.
To this the saint replied
My being here has a purpose implied ... 15

You will realize it later on though.
Don't ask me anything now.
I assure that this action will settle the feud
Between the clans of Patil and Deshmukh.
People in authority suffer from confusion
They fail to consider the consequences of their action.
Please go and call Bankatlal
When I left his house he was not disturbed at all. ... 16

Go and ask him why it was so.
My blessings are with you and will continue
In the future too.'
When Bankatlal came he said
'Don't take him to your place if he doesn't wish to go.
I did not obstruct him a bit when he left my place.
We are his children.
He loves us with the same generous grace always. ... 17

Sakharam Asolkar, the owner of that plot
Is very generous at heart.
He won't hesitate to give the land to Maharaj.
Once this is done, our future plan
Will enable all of us to come together.'
Thus there was a compromise
A monastery was soon built
With Parasharam Saoji's relentless efforts ... 18

Shree Maharaj had four men of reverence,
Persons with deep devotion,
Bhaskar, Balabhau, Pitambar
And Ganeshappa of Amaravati.
Later on Ramchandra Gurao joined them with heart
To make them five like Pandav of Mahabharat
With Shree Gajanan Maharaj
As God Shrihari amidst the pious lot ... 19

Balabhau felt completely resigned
From the routine of this worldly life.
He did not care for his service.
Letters from home asking him to come back
Could not get him back on the track.
Bhaskar then said to the saint,
'Balabhau does not go because of the sweets he gets.
I think a good thrashing will show him his place. ... 20

A monkey can be controlled only with a cane,
Big mountains are scared of thunderbolt in rain.

Balabhau was driven out against his wish.
But he came back after resigning from service.
Bhaskar thrashed him and said bluntly,
'Stop bothering us thus frequently.
Why do you visit us here
Like a stubborn bull going to green pastures? ... 21

Only those who have renounced worldly pleasures
Enjoy the privilege of being with the seer.'
Maharaj was not happy at this egoistic talk.
To bring back Bhaskar to right thinking
He grabbed the umbrella of someone on visit
And started thrashing Balabhau with it.
When it broke down he took a cane
And started beating Balabhau again ... 22

People got frightened and started running away.
Balabhau lay unconscious during this fray.
With that beating many thought he was dead.
Bhaskar got worried but said nothing to the saint.
Soon the cane too broke into bits.
Maharaj started trampling him with his feet
As does a potter on mud in the pit.
During this time someone called Krishnaji and Bankat ... 23

They came running to the site
They could not save Balabhau from his plight.
Bankatlal then gathered some courage
And requested Maharaj to curb his rage.
'Please spare him O saint he is your devotee.
You have thrashed him a lot, he deserves mercy.
At this the saint smiled and said with no regret,
'You are talking something irrelevant.' ... 24

I have not beaten or trampled Balabhau.
You can see it yourself. Why don't you?
Go and examine his body for scars.
Balabhau, get up and show where they are.'
When he got up they examined him carefully.

Not a single scar of beating was seen on his body.
He was as happy as he was earlier.
This was all staged to teach a lesson to Bhaskar ... 25

Maharaj showed Bhaskar
The privilege and importance
Which Balabhau enjoyed in his esteem
Can not be mowed down by any means.
Bhaskar behaved very well
Thereafter with his associate.
Even gold has to undergo a test
To prove its genuineness ... 26

One Sukhlal Agarwal of Balapur
Owned a very wicked cow.
She wandered the streets without qualms
Hurting people with her horns.
She entered grocery stores and ate the grains
Toppling the rest on roads
She kicked containers of ghee and oil
Spilling the contents on the soil ... 27

She would snap the rope when tied at home.
She broke the chains with all her vigor.
All her movements were that of a tiger.
People of Balapur were fed up with her.
She was not capable of getting any progeny,
Never remained in indoor custody.
Many advised Sukhlal to hand her over to a butcher. ... 28

'Get her shot.' Someone said.
Sukhlal authorized them to do what is best.
A pathan once tried to shoot her.
She had sensed it much earlier.
Fiercely she attacked the gunman
Throwing him away by her horns.
Sukhlal took her to another town in vain
But she returned to Balapur again ... 29

Someone remembered that Govindbua's horse
Was tamed by Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He advised Sukhlal to take the cow there
And give her away as an offering to the seer,
Thereby serving a dual purpose,
Getting rid of the wicked animal without efforts
And earning piety by giving a cow to the saint.
Everyone liked this suggestion of a gift ... 30

Attempts to catch the cow failed at every instance
Then they heaped cotton seeds and green grass
As a bait to trap her when she chomps
Fifteen men surrounded her with sturdy ropes.
They caught and chained her from horns to toes
And lifted her on to a bullock cart to go.
They drove her to the town of Shegaon
To donate her to Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 31

On her journey she appeared soothing down.
When brought to the saint she was extremely calm.
With tearful eyes she looked up to the saint
Where upon the Maharaj said,
'You are all crazy to have tortured the cow
Tying her neck, horns and legs, I vow.
Those ropes and chains are a great torture.
Such precautions are best only for a tiger ... 32

You fools you know cow is like a mother
You have committed a sin by afflicting pain on her.
Please unshackle her at once.
She will not do any harm to anyone.'
Even with this assurance no one dared touch her.
At this, Maharaj went and released her.
As soon as she was set free the cow came near
And with folded forelegs bowed to the seer ... 33

She went around him thrice with her head hung
And licked his feet with her tongue.
People were surprised to see her behavior.

The saint talked to the cow in a gentle tone,
'O cow don't any more bother anyone
And live here only from now on.'
When this happened people raised cheers
In praise of Shree Gajanan the seer ... 34

The Balapur crowd went back to their city.
The humbled cow stayed back in the monastery.
No ropes or chains were needed for her.
She moved about as a meek animal.
Even today the town of Shegaon
Has her progeny living along.
The saints always do good things.
They never go wrong ... 35

Lakshman Ghude, Vajsaniya Brahmin,
A rich resident of Karanja village
Had an ailment of the stomach
Which had become acute with his age.
He had tried various medicines spending a lot
But it had no substantial effect.
Hearing the name of Gajanan Maharaj
He came with his wife to the saint ... 36

The disease was a great pain.
All efforts to walk were in vain.
He required help to carry him to the monastery
Two or three persons helped him in the journey.
He couldn't even bend
To bow down to the saint.
His wife bent down and begged
For the well being of her beloved ... 37

Her dedicated prayer was,
'O benevolent Gajanan Maharaj
I am like your daughter.
I request you to cure
My husband from the agonies
Of his dreadful disease.

When nectar is at hand
Messengers of death have to disband.' ... 38

The Saint was eating a mango that time
He threw it on Lakshman's wife
'Go, feed this mango to him
This will cure him of the disease.
You are his devoted wife.'
He kept quiet for a while
And started smoking his pipe.
The lady remained still seated beside ... 39

'O respected lady!' said Bhaskar,
'Do not just sit here.
Take your husband back to your place
And feed him with fruit given as a grace.
As soon as he swallows the mango nectar
It will cure him from his chronic disorder.'
She returned to Karanja with her husband
And fed the mango to Lakshman ... 40

People asked her about the Shegaon visit
She told them of the Saint and mango gift.
She said she gave it to her husband.
The doctors said it was all absurd.
It will do great harm to Lakshman.
It will aggravate his present condition.
They quoted ancient Vaidyas of our land
Saying how in this case mango juice is bad ... 41

They said, 'You should have eaten mango as 'prasad'.
The effect would have reached your husband.'
Everyone started criticizing her.
But then a wonder happened.
Lakshman had a large purge.
This eased his system to a great extent.
Slowly he recovered
And regained his normal health ... 42

His stomach ailment was all cured.
Doctors cannot do anything beyond nature.
At times like this, the blessings
Of god and saints help devotees to recover.
Lakshman went to Shegaon
When he was completely cured.
He respectfully asked the saint
To visit Karanja and his house there ... 43

He said, 'Sanctify my house
By the touch of your feet O saint.'
At first Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Was very much reluctant
But at Lakshman's repeated requests
He agreed to visit the place
With Shankar, Bhau and Pitambar
In accompaniment ... 44

Lakshman welcomed Maharaj at his house
And performed a detailed worship.
At the offering of Dakshina he said,
'Everything here belongs to you, my lordship.
Who am I to give you anything?'
Saying so he filled a tray with Rupees
And tendered it at the saint's feet.
Maharaj's remarks were astonishing ... 45

He said, 'If you say all this belongs to me
Where from did you bring these Rupees?
Don't try to trick me with your hypocrisy.
Since all this is mine according to you
Open all doors and throw away the locks.'
Lakshman kept quiet at this moment.
'Go, open the safe and bring out the contents.'
Lakshman opened it yet guarded the entrance ... 46

He said to the saint, 'Take what you like.'
Though he said so, he was insincere in his mind.

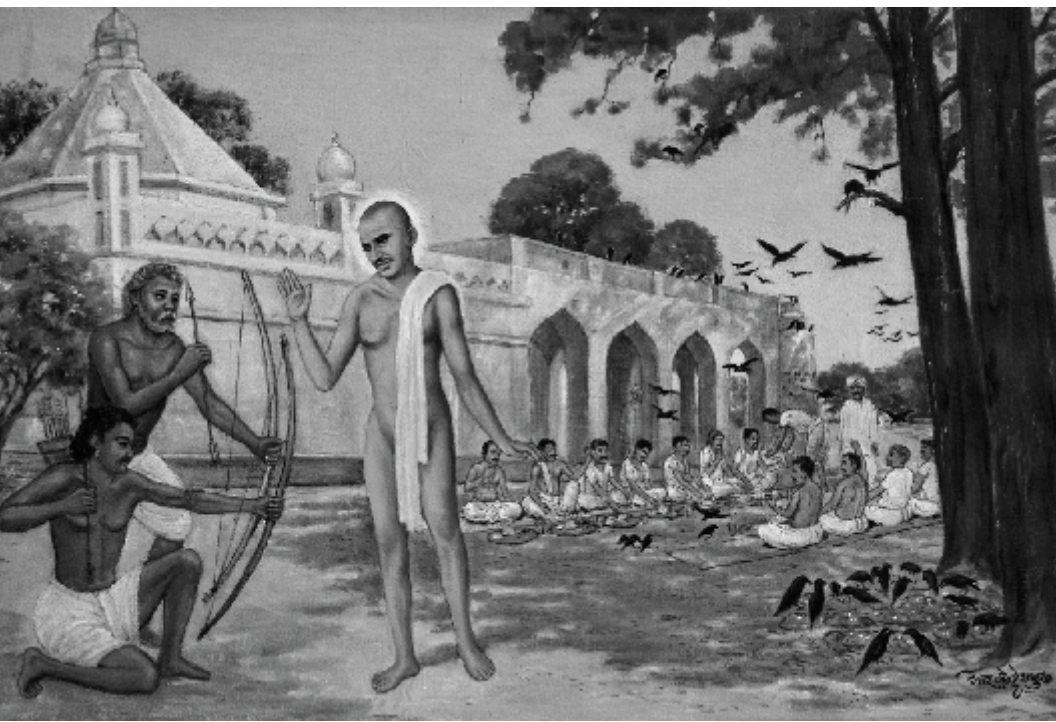
The saint could sense what was going on.
An actor cannot pose as a king for long.
A bitter fruit may look tempting
Hides an astringent taste inside.
Saints are unhappy in such surroundings.
Maharaj left the place without eating anything ... 47

He did not care for Lakshman's property and ornaments.
He was himself renunciation incarnate.
He wanted to test Lakshman's sincerity.
When he detected total dishonesty
He just left the place.
While departing he said,
'You are too selfish trying to own everything.
Now be prepared for the further happenings ... 48

I came to bless you and double your assets
But it appears you are not destined to get the effect.'
This forecast came true and in about six months
Lakshman lost his wealth and all his worth.
The saint wanted to teach that one should not be vicious,
Insincere and dishonest in fulfilling promises.
The saint was a jewel. Pebbles didn't beautify him.
How can tin trinkets decorate golden self ... 49

Let the devotees benefit
By reading this treatise.

Chapter Eleven



Please don't shoot them. I will tell them.
Thus saying the Saint turned to the crows,
'Don't come to this place from tomorrow.
As this may lower the prestige of Bhaskar's soul.
Eat today whatever you like to your hearts' content.
And don't come back from next day again.'
Devotees were amazed to hear this exchange.
Nonbeliever thought of it as sheer nonsense

Chapter 11

Shree Ganeshay namah

O God Shiva! Sustainer of the cosmos, Pashupati
Cosort of Goddess Bhavani, Dakshinamurti
You are the God with as many facets
As there are people in the creation.
You are formless and omnipresent
And the manifestation of an illusion.
It is impossible to distinguish your nature.
So you appear in countless figures ... 1

Devotees call you as per their preference,
But it makes no difference.
Shaiva's call you Shiva, Vedanti's call you Brahma.
Ramanuja's Sitapati And Vaishanava's Lakshmiapati.
Various methods of worship bestowed you these names.
But everywhere you remain the same.
You are Vishveshwar in Somanath, Kedar in Himalaya
Mahankal on the bank of river Kshipra ... 2

Naganath, Vaijanath, at Verul Ghrishneshwar
And Tryambak on the bank of the Godavari river.
You are Bhimashankar, Mallikarjuna and Rameshwar.
You are Shankar at Gokarna, Mahadeo at Shinganapur.
I bow down to all your forms, O benevolent God.
Please liberate me from the tough elements of nature.
O, consort of Girija you made Kubera wealthy.
Then why this hesitation for me? ... 3

Next year on Das Navami day
The saint came to Balapur once more.
Balkrishna and Sukhlal, the devotees
Were waiting for him there.
Shree Maharaj was accompanied
By Bhaskar, Balabhau, Pitambar,
Ganu, Jagadeo and Dindokar.
The celebration was enthusiastic ... 4

But fate had something in store for Bhaskar
A rabid dog bit him at the gathering.
People were afraid he would soon turn rabid
All possible treatment was given to him.
They all suggested that Bhaskar
Should go and see a doctor.
Bhaskar was disinclined and replied
That the saint would save him from disaster ... 5

When Bhaskar was brought to the saint
Balabhau narrated the entire incident.
Maharaj heard it all, smiled and said,
'None can escape the effect of murder, enmity and debts.
Bhaskar removed the evil from Sukhlal's cow.
That evil has entered in the dog now.
He requested me to remove the wickedness
So that he gets the milk for himself ... 6

You enjoyed the milk. Now you feel sorry for the bite.
Do you want me to save you? Come on. Be frank with it.
This dog bite is an excuse to end your life.
It is over and you have to leave this mundane strife.
I can save you if you want to live longer.
But that will be a sort of give and take affair.
In this illusive world this is the way they score.
Be quick. Tell me. You won't get this chance again ... 7

Said Bhaskar, 'I am your child.
Do whatever you think best for me
Saint Tukaram in one of his abhangs

Said that a mother knows everything
As to what is best for her offspring.
Therefore it is not for me to request.
Please do whatever you think best.
You are an ocean of knowledge.' ... 8

Truth always satisfies people who are candid.
Maharaj was happy as Bhaskar's reply was forthright.
Some devotees requested the saint to save Bhaskar
As he was one of the most dedicated disciples of the seer.
The saint said, 'O you gentlemen! Curb your ignorance.
Know that life and death are delusions.
No one is born and no one dies
Knowledge is essential to understand this illusion ... 9

One cannot be released from this life
Without suffering from the deeds of the past.
Deeds of the past bring you to the present
And again of the present take you to the next
And so on and on the cycle goes on.
How long should one continue in this procession?
Bhaskar has exhausted the effects of the past life
And is now due for liberation ... 10

Do not come in his way. Let him go.
It is difficult to get a devotee like him, I know.
This dog was his enemy in his previous birth.
It has bitten him in Balapur in this term.
The revenge is over but if this leaves bitterness
In Bhaskar, it will prompt him to retaliate.
This will take him to next birth again.
As of today Bhaskar is cleansed of his past misconduct ... 11

He is left with two months of his life.
I can save him from the effects of the dog bite.
If it won't be this way, he will have to come once more
And live on this earth for two more months further.'
Some people did not grasp the values in the statement.
But Balabhau could comprehend it and was happy.

He praised Bhaskar for his devotion to the saint
Thereby freeing him from cycle of life and death ... 12

When they returned to Shegaon monastery
Bhaskar told others the story
Of the happenings at Balapur on Das Navami.
With folded hands he appealed to the gentry,
'Shegaon is fortunate to have Shree Gajanan saint.
Let us honor his being here with a monument.
We are aware that he doesn't need one
But it is essential for the next generation ... 13

They have memorials for Saint Dnyaneshwar at Alandi,
At Sajjangad for Shree Ramadas Swami,
For Saint Tukaram at Dehu Nagari.
We should have one here for Saint Shree Gajanan.'
Though he said so he was not sure of their intentions.
Once during the absence of the Saint
He called many dignitaries to attend
A meeting to discuss and recommend ... 14

The attendees included Bankatlal, Hari Patil, Maruti,
Chandrabhan,
And among others Shripatrao Vavikar, Tarachand Sawkar.
Bhaskar said, 'I am here for two months only, not long.
I wish a grand memorial for the Saint be built at Shegaon.
I will leave this place with great happiness.
Please remember that service to a saint never goes waste.
He alone is the one who will fulfill your desires.
The memorial should draw all praise and prayer.' ... 15

Bhaskar was happy at their promise to fulfill his desire.
Day by day he felt elated
Like a child excited at the thought of a coming festival.
On the thirteenth day of waning moon in Magh
Said Saint Gajanan Maharaj,
'Bhaskar, For Mahashivaratri let us go to Trimbakeshwar.
As there on the banks of Godavari river
Resides Shiva, the Bhavaniwar ... 16

The Jyotirling there is pleasing to the eyes.
A glimpse of that destroys all wrongdoings.
Come, don't delay. Let us go and take a dip salutary
In the holy waters of the sacred Godavari.
On the Brahmagiri hill near the river
Grow medicinal herbs which are very rare.
Saint Gahininath who resides there
Knows them and the diseases they cure ... 17

We can get for you some medicament
For your anti-rabies treatment.
Bhaskar remarked, 'I don't need any medicines.
I am content with your blessings.
I was freed of the dog- bite poison at Balapur
And have to live for just another two months.
Therefore please let me stay here.
As for me you are Trimbakeshwar ... 18

Your feet are Godavari to me where I bathe.
I don't need any holy place to visit at this stage.'
'Though this may be true.' Said the Saint graciously,
'One shouldn't ignore the importance of a holy place.
Come, let us get ready to go now.
Take with us Pitambar and Balabhau.
They were all there at Trimbakeshwar
On Shivaratri day, festival of the year ... 19

They took bath at the Kushavart reservoir.
Had a glimpse of God Trimbakeshwar.
They offered worship to Gautami at Gangadwar,
Ma Nilambika, Nivrutti and Gahininath.
From there they all came to Nashik to meet Gopaldas
Who was sitting at the gate of the temple of Kalaram.
This was in Panchavati.
In front of it was a pipal tree ... 20

Maharaj sat on the platform below with his disciples.
Gopaldas was happy and said to his people,

'My brother has come from Vidarbha. He is Gajanan.
 Go, pay respects to him and offer him coconut and sugar.
 Put this garland around his neck.
 Though we are two different bodies we two are the same.'
 The disciples offered sweets and garlanded the Saint
 Who asked Bhaskar to give sweets to all those present ...
 21

'Our work at Panchavati is now over.
 Let us go to Nashik to meet Dhumal, the lawyer.'
 Many people came to have a glimpse of the saint.
 A few days later back to Shegaon they went.
 Zyamsingh of Adgaon Visited Shegaon
 With a request to Maharaj to visit Adgaon.
 Maharaj was not well- inclined to go.
 Zyamsingh went back and forth to and fro ... 22

He came back on Ram Navami
 After the worship he said, 'Come with me,
 At Adgaon we will observe Hanuman Jayanti.'
 Strange things happened during the tour
 One afternoon saint pushed Bhaskar to the floor.
 He sat on his chest and pounded him.
 People were aghast but no one dared say anything
 Until Balabhau intervened with a pleading ... 23

With all humility and a voice mellow
 He said, 'Please let him go.
 He is being scorched by the hot earth below.'
 Bhaskar said, 'Don't object to him.
 Let him do what he likes.
 This is not thrashing but just a game.
 Only those who understand the saint well
 Will be able to comprehend the same ... 24

When they returned to their residence
 Shree Gajanan Maharaj said to Balabhau,
 'Only two days are left for Bhaskar now.
 On this Panchami day he has to go.

The reason I thrashed him today
Is that he made me do the same to you one day.
To dispel the effect of that action
I beat him. There was no other intention ... 25

The festival culminated with distribution of Prasad.
When the day of Panchami dawned,
Shree Gajanan Maharaj said to Bhaskar'
'This is your date of departure. Thus now get prepared.'
To the people he asked to recite 'Vitthal Narayan'.
'This brother of you is now going to Vaikunth.
Worship him offering bukka and flowers ... 26

Bhaskar sat facing East in a Padmasan pose,
Concentrating his eyes on the tip of his nose
Surrendering his thoughts to the Almighty.
Worship was performed by the devotees.
The saint was looking happily at them
Chanting of prayers continued till then.
At mid day the saint said aloud 'Har Har'
To Vaikunth, with these words, went Bhaskar ... 27

Only those who are blessed by the saints
Go straight to Vaikunth from this place.
Devotees asked the Saint
About Bhaskar's final place of rest.
He decided on a site near Dwarkeshwar
Where they brought his remains in a palanquin
Decorated with banana leaves and flowers.
On route the devotees were singing prayers ... 28

When they reached the temple of Dwarakeshwar
All memorial services were performed for Bhaskar.
People present grieved at his departure,
Saying that he was the greatest devotee of the Saint ever.
From next day they started feeding of the poor.
Dwarkeshwar was one mile North of Adgaon
Situated between Akoli and Adgaon
Among trees of neem, pipal, audumber and mandar ... 29

Food offering called 'Sant Bhandara' for the people
Continued for ten days at Dwarakeshwar temple.
They all squatted in the shade of tall tamarind trees
To have their share of food offerings.
Crows in the woods troubled them to a great extent
By crowing, picking morsels and dropping waste.
Annoyed by the nuisance they called the Bhils
To shoot at them while the people ate ... 30

When he saw this the Maharaj said, 'Mind you,
Don't shoot the crows. They are here too
To share the offering with people like you.
Bhaskar's soul is in heaven. He is not in the queue.
Normally souls of the dead hover in the sky for ten days.
On the eleventh a ball of rice is offered to the crows.
When crows touch it to heaven the soul goes.
For Bhaskar this process was not required, of course ... 31

That's why the crows were angry
Bhaskar's soul had reached heaven already.
He had attained detachment while on this planet
And thus needed no such offerings for him to attain
liberation.
Such things are required for those entangled in desires
And are not favored for direct ascent to the heavenly sphere.
Crows want to convey by showing their rage
That they be given their share as in other cases ... 32

Please don't shoot. I will handle them.'
Thus saying the Saint turned to the crows,
'Don't come to this place from tomorrow.
As this may lower the prestige of Bhaskar's soul.
Eat today whatever you like to your hearts' content.
And don't come back from tomorrow ever again.'
Devotees were amazed to hear this exchange.
Nonbelievers thought of it as sheer nonsense ... 33

'How can birds obey orders of human beings?
They asked each other that evening.

Next day deliberately they went to the place
To gauge the effect of what the saint had said.
Not a single crow was spotted at the scene.
It was a great surprise to the skeptic beings.
They surrendered to Maharaj then and there.
No crows visited the place for next twelve years. ... 34

The Saint returned to Shegaon after fourteen days
With the remaining disciples in his entourage.
Since it was a time of drought
Wells were being dug all across.
At one site it went well until ten feet downward.
They struck a black rock which stopped the work.
Four holes were made in the rock for dynamite
And fastening ends of ropes inside ... 35

Gun powder was packed in those openings
With proper placements of ends of the strings.
Through them were passed small burning pipes
To slide down and ignite the stuffed dynamite.
Somehow the pipes got stuck in knots in between.
They did not slide down further.
Water was about to soak in the gun powder
Making it ineffective to explode under. 36

Someone was required to go and press
The pipes down to save the technical snug.
No one was ready to take such a risk.
The contractor asked Ganu Javar to go down quick.
His utter poverty made him obey the authority.
It is only a sheep which is killed before a Deity.
Ganu had great faith in Shree Gajanan.
Remembering the Saint in his heart he went down ... 37

He pulled the obstructed pipe which slid down
And touched the gun powder
Before he could pull another.
At the first explosion Ganu was trapped in the well.

He prayed to the Saint to save him from this hell.
The entire well got filled with smoke.
Ganu caught hold of a rock below
Behind which there was a cavern to hide ... 38

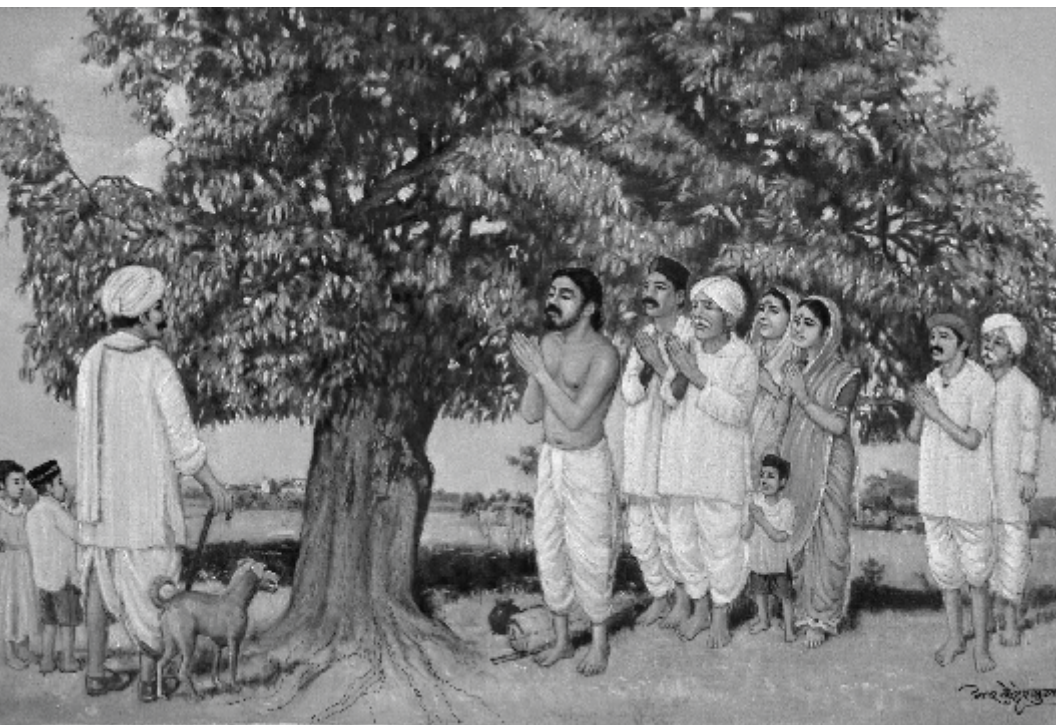
Remaining three dynamites exploded one after other
Throwing stones out scattered everywhere.
People thought that Ganu was shattered to pieces.
The contractor asked that his body be searched in debris.
Ganu heard him and shouted from inside the well,
'O mistry, Ganu is not dead. He is alive and well.
By the grace of Shree Gajanan he is safe in a cave.
A big rock is obstructing his safe escape.' ... 39

People rejoiced hearing Ganu's voice
And went down to clear the space
Ganu came up and bowed down
To Maharaj for his kind grace.
Maharaj smiled and said,
'The big stone which obstructed you, saved you
Don't repeat such feats again.
Don't touch an ignited pipe. You're here by God's grace ... 40

When people came to see Ganu he said,
'O Maharaj, It was you holding my hand
When the dynamite exploded,
Putting me safe in the cavern
And saving me from the jaws of death.
I am here by your kind grace.'
Such was the greatness of Maharaj
Which I have no words to express ... 41

Let this treatise
Bring happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Twelve



Thus saying he asked the gathering to chant a song
In the name of Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon.
So the chorus started singing 'Jai Gajanan, Jai Gajanan.'
This went on for some time and Lo! There was a miracle.
Tender leaves started shooting out of the tree.
In a few moments it was all green.
People looked up in wonder.
Some thought it could be a dream

Chapter 12

Shree Ganeshay namah

O guardian of the gathering, Mayureshwar,
Come be with me and help me to complete this thesis .
You deliver knowledge and intelligence
And you alone fulfill the desires of devotees.
You remove all obstacles. The scriptures too narrate so.
O Ekdanta, Lambodar, Parvatisuta,
Bhalachandra, Sindurari
Come relieve me of all my anxieties ... 1

One Bachchulal Agarwal stayed in Akola.
He was a rich and generous person.
He heard of the incident of Ghude of Karanja
Which confounded him with some doubts and suspicion.
As he was thinking about the truth behind it
Maharaj himself came to Akola on a visit.
He reached Bachchulal's residence.
Bachchulal was happy and desired to worship the saint ... 2

When Maharaj gave him consent
Bachchulal made elaborate arrangements
For his bath, anointments and various garments.
A gold chain was put around his neck
And gold rings on all his fingers,
A bracelet of gold was put on his left arm.
And various perfumes on his body were sprinkled.
He was offered sweets of a varied nature ... 3

A golden platter full of Rupees, Coins and Mohors
Was offered as dakshina to the Saint.
It amounted to two thousand Rupees.
He also put a coconut on the plate.
Then with folded hands Bachchulal said,
'Maharaj, I want to construct a Shree Ram temple
As the space in my house is insufficient
To celebrate Ram Navami festival ... 4

Kindly fulfill my desire.'
Saying this he touched the Saint's feet.'
To which Maharaj replied,
'I bless you that God Ramchandra will fulfill your wish
But what have you achieved by decorating me like this?
You have made me look like a bull at 'Pola'.
I am neither that nor a horse at 'Dasara'.
These ornaments are of no use to me ... 5

I shouldn't have a touch of them.
They are all toxic to me.
Don't try to tempt me with all these gimmicks
Or is it Bachchulal that you have done all this
To flaunt your wealth you should offer only those things
That a receiver likes.
I am just a crazy wandering bare bodied ... 6

Let all these things remain with you.
They are fine for a family holder like you.
If at all I want any riches God Vitthal standing on a rock
On the bank of River Bhima will always fulfill my wishes.'
This is all he had to say.
He removed all decorations and threw them away ... 7

The Saint pulled out all ornaments from his person
And threw them away in all directions.
Same was the case with the clothes offered.
He ate a piece of the sweet and then disappeared.
People of Akola who witnessed this event

Were unhappy to see how he left.
Some of them were from Karanja
Feeling sorry for Ghude's miserly Dakshina ... 8

He worshipped Maharaj like Bachchulal
But was insincere in giving Dakshina at all.
The Saint could understand his hypocrisy,
His tall talk and false modesty.
His worship used big words only.
When he said, 'Take these clothes.'
He offered grains of rice actually.
For sweets he offered peanuts similarly ... 9

A worshipper gets what he deserves
Depending on the sincerity he offers
As it happened in Ghude's efforts,
Unlike Bachchulal who was true to his words.
Bachchulal's prosperity never receded.
Those blessed by saints are ever contented.
He searched for Maharaj in Akola city
But could not find him in the vicinity ... 10

A devotee named Pitamber Shimpi stayed at the monastery
With Gajanan Maharaj in Shegaon city.
He was very sincere in service to Maharaj.
His truthful devotion got him fruitful rewards.
Once he was wearing a dhoti all tattered
Looking at that the Saint uttered,
'Your name is Pitambar
But you don't have even a good dhoti to wear ... 11

At least cover your hips which is seen by others.
It's like a woman named Sonubai
With not even tin ornaments on her
Or Gangabai who is dying for water.
Your dhoti is just fit to be a duster.
Wearing it you expose your posterior.
I am giving you now this dupatta to wear
Never remove it even if anyone insists ever ... 12

Pitambar obediently wore the dupatta
But other devotees did not tolerate it.
Selfishness breeds animosity even in brothers.
In this material world that's the way it is.
This is an unpleasant subject
Like opening the lid of a sewer.
Many claimed to be devotees of the Saint
Yet only a few could stand out of the rest ... 13

It is like a sandalwood tree in the forest.
Rare to find in a jungle quest.
People were jealous. Teasing Pitambar
They said he shouldn't use the Saint's wear.
In reply said Pitambar
He was doing it under the Saint's orders.
This created a rift amongst the devotees.
Maharaj called Pitambar aside ... 14

He said 'Pitambar, go away from here
Like a grown up child drifting away from the mother.
My blessings are always with you Pitambar.
Go and serve the under-privileged brothers.'
With tearful eyes he bowed down to the saint,
His lingering eyes looking back again and again,
He left the monastery and reached Kondoli.
With the saint's name on his lips, he sat under a tree ... 15

He sat there all night. Ants started bothering him
And he had to climb up the tree.
There too he faced the same menace
So he went up branch by branch.
Small or big, a safer place to sit but could not get any.
Some cowherds nearby
Were surprised to see him move like that ... 16

They could not understand
His going from branch to branch like a chimpanzee.
The wonder was that he did not fall
Even from the smallest branch at all.

One of them said that disciples of Maharaj
Can perform marvels like that
And thought that Pitambar could one be ... 17

The cowherds went back to the township
And told the people about the happening.
Curious residents of Kondoli
Gathered under the mango tree
To find out who this person was.
On seeing Pitambar
They thought he was an imposter
Trying to prove that he was the Saint's devotee ... 18

There was one Bhaskar Patil
A true disciple who recently died.
Some said disciples of Maharaj
Do not leave Shegaon at all
Because of the sweets they get to eat,
A daily welcome treat.
Some said before forming any opinion
Ask details about him from the person ... 19

They all thought it better to ask the antecedents.
One of them asked him who he was,
What were his credentials and who was his respected guru.
'I am from Shegaon.' said Pitambar,
My name is Pitambar Shimpi disciple of the saint there.
I am in this town respecting his orders.
I sat under that tree when I came here ... 20

Ants started crawling over my body.
I had thus to go up the tree.'
People got upset and thought him to be fake.
They warned him not to fool them in the Saint's name.
They taunted him saying you speak like a queen
Who is seeking a job to make a living ... 21

One Shamrao Deshmukh of the village said,
'You are an imposter. Listen to me well.

Saint Gajanan Maharaj is God himself.
He made mangoes grow on each bough.
It was out of season though.
Well! He made the fruits, can you at least
Create leaves on these worn out branches
Of Baliram Patil's dry mango tree ... 22

Do it or be prepared to face a thrashing.
If you do, we'll respect you.
It is seen that disciples of great saints
Attain the loftiness of the guru himself.
Now don't delay. Make the tree gleam
With glossy lively and emerald green
As they have earlier been.'
For Pitambar the idea was frightening ... 23

He said, 'Please don't push me in to a quandary
Kindly listen to the entire story.
As you are very well aware
Diamonds and pebbles are found together.
I told you the truth about myself.
I am just a pebble amongst the saint's disciples.
Ignore me but I did not lie a bit.
Pebbles do not lower the value of a diamond pit ... 24

In spite of what I do
I cannot hide the name of my Guru'
There upon Shamrao said,
'Don't talk nonsense. A disciple in trouble
Prays for guru's blessings favorable
To rescue him from such a debacle
In spite of the standing of the disciple
Not being of a requisite level.' ... 25

Pitambar was caught between the devil and the deep sea.
He helplessly worried as to what the future would be.
People gathered around the mango tree
Waiting to see how he tackles this situation knotty.
Pitambar folded his hands and prayed to the Saint.

'O Saint, please come to my rescue.
Because of me they are blaming you.
Let the tree sprout foliage and save your greatness ... 26

I am entirely dependent on you.
If I don't get any help now
I may have to face death in the brawl.
You came as Narahari for Bhakta Pralhad.
In case of Janabai, the pillar
On which she was to be killed turned into water.
As Janabai depended on the Omnipresent
Saint! I look to you for help this moment ... 27

There is no difference between God and saint.
Saint is God and God is saint.
I have no special qualities
Except that of being a disciple of your reverence.
Thus now it is your honor which is at stake.
You are the flower, I am the thread.
Flowers make a garland, lending value to the twine.
You are the musk. I am the earth ... 28

I am caught up in this calamity,
Because of your Divinity.
Please don't put me to this test any further.
Come running to me
And get green leaves on the tree to flutter.' ... 29

Thus saying he asked the gathering to chant a song
In the name of Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon.
So the chorus started singing 'Jai Gajanan, Jai Gajanan.'
This went on for some time and Lo! There was a miracle.
Tender leaves started sprouting from the tree.
In a few moments it was all green.
People looked up in wonder.
Some thought it could be a dream ... 30

They pinched each other to ensure that it was not so.
Some others thought that it was a magic show.

But the doubts were removed as fresh sap oozed
When leaves were plucked by those in the shadow.
They were all convinced that leaves came into being
Due to the grace of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
This made them accept the greatness of the visitor,
Pitambar a humble disciple from Shegaon ... 31

They all took him to Kondoli
With a hope that Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Will visit the place to see his disciple
As a cow follows her calf.
Swami Samarth Ramdas sent his disciple to Domgaon
For spiritual upliftment of the people there.
Likewise Pitambar was sent
By Shree Gajanan Maharaj here ... 32

It was a lucky augury for Kondoli.
Speaking of the Mango tree,
It still thrives there.
Yielding more mangoes than any other near.
People respected Pitambar
Who established a monastery there.
A piece of diamond has a value everywhere.
Pitambar breathed his last there ... 33

Once in Shegaon the Saint appeared restless.
The disciples wanted to know the reason for this unrest.
The saint said, 'Krishna Patil who has passed away
Comes back to my mind.
He used to offer me seasoned betel nut.
No one is left of his kind.
His son Ram is young. He may serve me in future.
I don't want to stay here hereafter ... 34

People got anxious at this warning
That the Saint may leave the place soon.
They all went and bowed down to him
To stop him from leaving Shegaon town.
Bankatlal, Tarachand, Maroti and Shripatrao

Amongst others came and touched the feet of Maharaj
Saying, 'Don't go away from our midst.
Please stay in this town wherever you wish.' ... 35

Maharaj said that people of Shegaon are divided.
He did not want to stay with any one of them.
He said that if he were to stay in Shegaon
It would be a place which to no one belongs.
This was an awkward situation.
If he did not want to stay with any one
The only alternative was to approach the government
And get a piece of land for the saint ... 36

How can a government ruled by foreign hands
Have respect for the Saints of our land?
Bankat asked the saint not to put them in difficulty
As no one could give any guarantee
Of the Government allotting property
Just on demand to a religious fraternity
Bankatlal with many others requested the Saint
To avoid the problems hard to circumvent ... 37

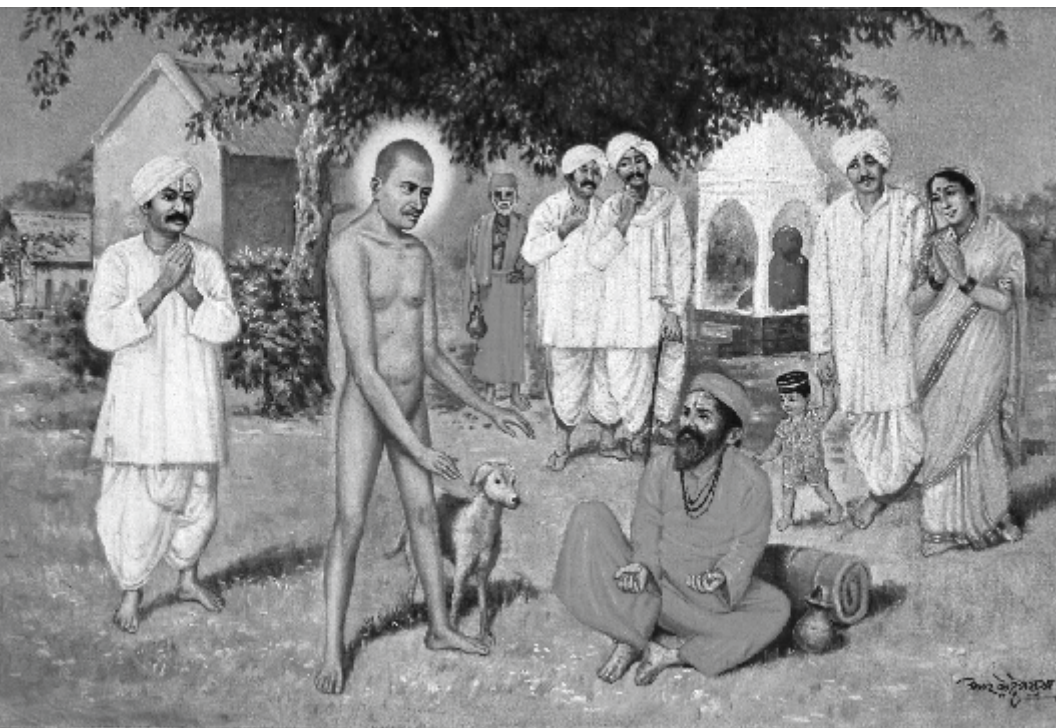
Maharaj said, 'You are all ignorant.
The land belongs to God, the Omnipresent.
Many kings have come and gone.
Pandurang is the God to whom the land belongs.
Kings owned it by tradition.
There is nothing more than that.
Go and ask Hari Patil to assist you in the attempt.
I feel he will positively get the grant ... 38

People came to Hari Patil for consultation.
Then approached the government with an application.
Mr. Kari, Buldana's district collector
Agreed to allot an acre
He said more land would be allotted
If the acre is properly developed.
The decision of the collector is still on record
This was an effect of a 'word' from Maharaj ... 39

Hari and Bankat started the fund collection.
The requested amount matched the estimation.
Those who helped to begin the collection
Will be narrated in the next chapter.
God always helps Saints.
Vithu Patil of Dongargaon, Lakshman of Wadegaon,
Jagu Aaba of Shegaon were the leaders
In forefront to start the construction ... 40

May the reading of this treatise
Bring happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Thirteen



In spite of the warning, Gangabharati
Grabbed a timely opportunity.
He rushed to the Maharaj
To bow down to him as a last resort.
The Maharaj slapped him on his head
And as he got up many slaps on his face.
After this Maharaj kicked him hard
And spat on his body decaying

Chapter 13

Shree Ganeshay namah

O Shree Hari the Saint Supreme,
Ocean of kindness, beloved of Goap and Gopi's.
God Brahma came to steal cows and calves in Gokul,
To have a fitful darshan of you.
You turned yourself into those forms to please Him.
You killed Kaliya, Serpent of the Yamuna river
To free the Gopi's of his menace forever.
Likewise crush my ignorance to rid me of my fears ...1

Bankat, Hari and Lakshman, Vithu and Jagdeo as one,
Went around collecting donations
For the monastery of Shree Gajanan.
While many devotees readily subscribed
Some nonbelievers criticized,
'Why should the saint need donations
When he performs sensations? ... 2

Why should he ask for money from others
When he can get it straight from Kuber's coffers?'
Jagdeo laughed at their mischief and said,
'The money we need is for your sake.
Maharaj doesn't require a temple or a hood
The construction is for your own good.
This universe is his monastery,
Forests are his gardens of pleasant diversity ... 3

This earth is his bed of limitless spread,
All the eight Siddhis are awaiting his summons.
His splendor is entirely beyond conception
How can a candle help the sun in diffusing darkness?
How can a watchman surpass the king's glory?
One pious deed is enough to fulfill your dreams.
Remedies curing ills are futile for soul's esteem ... 4

Diseases threaten the body not the spirit.
Soul is eternal. It has no birth or demise.
You have to accumulate good deeds and blessings
To enjoy and protect your well being.
If you consider your affluence as a body
And bad habits as a malady,
The disease can be removed indeed
By performing pious deeds ... 5

Thus build up piety to your credit,
With no apprehension in your mind.
Sow seeds of good deeds to reap the benefit.
Don't scatter seeds on a rocky surface.
They will never sprout and will go waste.
Bad habits and thoughts are such spots
Seeds sown there will be eaten by roaches and ants ... 6

There is no piety like reverence to saints.
Shree Gajanan today is a jewel amongst them.
A donation to such a cause will multiply your credit.
A seed sown in soil brings forth more yield.
Similar is the effect of good charity.'
The critics were subdued by this advice.
All arguments go haywire
When confronted with facts and figures ... 7

Contributions poured because of influential people.
Ordinary folks cannot contribute such donations.
A compound wall was soon built around the lot.
People of Shegaon gathered to help the cause.
Bullock carts carried material for construction

Saint Gajanan watched them from his residence.
He thought that the work may gather speed
If he shifts to the site of the construction indeed! ... 8

He jumped on a cart carrying sand
The driver stepped down as He was a Mahar.
'Why so?' asked the saint, 'I don't care
Whether you are untouchable or an esquire.'
The Mahar said, 'It is not appropriate
For me to sit next to a saint.
God Hanuman was a devotee of Shree Ram
But never sat next to Him at all ... 9

'So be it. I don't object.' Said the saint,
'O bullock, just take the cart on the right trail.'
The bullock went as instructed
And arrived at the designated spot
The cart man was walking ahead.
The saint alighted from the cart
And sat in the center of the plot
Where stands his monument today ... 10

This spot falls in between two survey numbers
Forty three and forty five of the lot.
Construction with this as a center
Would mean encroachment on an outer piece of land.
The trust was granted only an acre.
But with such a situation violation would occur.
They did it as the collector had agreed
To allot more after gauging how the work proceeds ... 11

Some mischievous elements
Reported this to the Government.
Devotees were disturbed and informed the saint
That an officer Joshi would enquire in to the incident.
Shree Gajanan Maharaj laughed and said
That the fine imposed would be exempted.
It came to be true. Joshi inspected the matter
And waived the charges in his order ... 12

Hari Patil was especially happy
'Words of Maharaj don't go in vain
Last time in a similar case
The Saint had said - don't be afraid,
And it did come true that I was saved.
Similar incident has recurred today.
His kind words won't go astray.
They can never remain empty.' ... 13

Devotees from far and near gathered together
At the saint's feet and offered prayers.
Some incidents at the new monastery
Soon became note worthy.
A Gosavi named Gangabharati
Came from a village Savadad in Mehekar taluka.
He suffered from leprosy
And had scars all over his body ... 14

The disease had worn out his finger tips
His skin was red and suffered from an itch.
He was totally tired of his sufferings.
He heard of the saint and came for his blessings.
Devotees did not allow him near the Saint.
The disease is contagious as they said.
They advised him to stay away.
Take a glimpse of the saint and get out of the way ... 15

In spite of the warning, Gangabharati
Grabbed a timely opportunity.
He rushed to Maharaj
To bow down to him as a last resort.
Maharaj slapped him on his head
And as he got up he got many slaps on his face.
After this Maharaj kicked him hard
And spat on his body diseased ... 16

Gangabharati took it as a blessing
And spread the spittle as ointment dressing.
Someone standing by criticized him

And asked him to clean himself
With a suggestion not to indulge
In such blind faith again.
He advised Gangabharati to take medicines
Instead of coming to a crazy man like this ... 17

Gangabharati smiled and said,
'Nothing is impure with the saints.
Musk will never release a reeking stench.
What appeared to you as saliva
Is an ointment for my skin.
It smells like musk.
If you so like, come touch and smell it.
It appeared to you thus as you don't need it ... 18

You don't understand the greatness of Maharaj.
To prove what I say, let us go to the place
Where he takes his daily bath.
There from I take mud and anoint myself
And watch what happens next.'
For Gangabharati it turned into an ointment.
It remained as mud in the critic's extent
Making him realize the greatness of the saint ... 19

No one in the congregation
Allowed Gangabharati to sit near Gajanan.
He had a melodious voice.
He sang devotional songs of his choice.
This continued for a fortnight
And then a miracle came to sight.
The rash on skin had vanished.
Earlobes returned to normal size ... 20

Cracks on the feet were all gone.
Stench of the person was a thing of the past.
He went on singing devotional songs
Which pleased the audience all day long.
Anusuya, his wife and son Santosh
Came to Shegaon to take him home.

By the grace of the saint you are cured they said
With his permission let us go back to our village ... 21

Gangabharati said, 'Don't pray to me.
I no more belong to you. I swear.
Maharaj has slapped me and brought me to my senses
Saying that I shouldn't degrade the saffron robe I wear.
I have a new vision to understand the strife.
I desire to stay away from family life.
Santosh you better go home with your mother
Obey her and take good care of her ... 22

Be like Pundarika in serving her with love.
That will bring you blessings from God Vasudeo.
If I come back the disease will catch me again
So refrain from forcing me in vain.
Till now I belonged to you I agree
But from now on I will devote myself to the Divinity
To free myself from the cycle of birth and death.
This change in me is due to the Maharaj's grace ... 23

Please don't tempt me anymore.'
Saying this he sent them back to Savadad
And stayed on in Shegaon since then
Singing daily evening prayers
Sitting before Maharaj and the followers.
This was an enchantment for everyone.
He was completely cured of the disease.
And then went to Malkapur as the Saint wished ... 24

Once in the month of Paush
Zyamsingh came to Shegaon
And requested the saint to visit his village Mundagaon.
He reminded the saint of the promise made
To visit his village.
Accordingly he had come to take him home.
Maharaj went with him where a big crowd had gathered
To greet him on the village outskirts ... 25

Zyamsingh arranged a grand feast
To celebrate the saint's visit
Mundgaon became the second Paithan
Where Eknath was treated with such a great aplomb.
In the presence of Shree Gajanan
Many visiting parties arranged bhajans
Cooks got busy in making Prasad
For the devotees of Maharaj ... 26

When the preparations were half way through
Maharaj halted the process though
Saying, 'Zyamsingh, Today is a void day
The fourteenth day of the waxing moon.
Better arrange the feeding tomorrow
On the festival of full moon.'
Zyamsingh said that the food was all set
And devotees had gathered to participate in feast.' ... 27

Maharaj said, 'What you say
Is correct in your own way
But this is not an appropriate day
Acceptable to God. Please obey.
The food will go waste as I see
That's what you don't want it to be.
You wish the events go as per your desire
But it doesn't seem to be possible here ... 28

Even then people squatted down for food.
Suddenly the sky changed its mood.
Clouds gathered and poured rain.
Then a thunder storm lashed again.
Wind and lightening uprooted many trees
Water went running as in streams.
It came in to the plates served for the day
And all the food was swept away ... 29

Zyamsingh approached the saint and said,
'The devotees are all disappointed
By these untimely rains.

I hope this does not recur tomorrow.
This is not our rainy season we all know.
It appears the storm lashed this region
Only to spoil the food preparation.
Our crops may be destroyed by such precipitation ... 30

People will taunt me by asking,
'Is this a reward your piety brings?'
The saint said it won't happen the next day
He just looked up at the clouds and they cleared.
They all vanished and the sky was clear.
Sun brightened up the entire atmosphere.
Such was the supremacy of the saint's stare.
Next day the devotees enjoyed the fare ... 31

The tradition of feeding people on this day
Continues at Mundgaon even today.
Zyamsingh surrendered all his estate
At the feet of the revered saint.
Many residents of Mundgaon village
Became disciples of Gajanan the Saint.
Pundalik Bhokre was one amongst the people.
A sturdy young man of principle ... 32

He was the only son of Ukirda the farmer.
The name Ukirda may sound peculiar.
Such names are given to children to ensure their survival
As Pentayya in Telangana
And Kerpunja in Maharashtra elsewhere.
Pundalik visited Shegaon on eleventh day of the waning
moon
Like devotees visiting Pandharpur Alandi and Dehu ... 33

Once, an epidemic of plague spread over Berar.
People fled their houses and went to live on the fields afar.
The symptoms of the disease are that the patient shivers
And then develops a very high temperature.
His eyes become red in color,
Followed by a gland in the joint anywhere.

The patient then loses his cognizance
And finally succumbs to the infection ... 34

This was never a disease of our land
It prevailed over the European continent
And travelled to India on a weird journey
To soon infect our beloved country.
People abandoned their houses
And resided on fields to protect themselves.
This killer disease invaded Mundgaon
When Pundalik was to visit Shegaon ... 35

When he left for Shegaon with his father
He was feeling feverish with a shiver.
After going ten miles on the road
He could not walk any more.
A gland appeared in his armpit.
He couldn't walk a step more on the street.
His father was very much concerned
And asked his son about his condition ... 36

Pundalik explained to him the state of affairs
His weakness, gland in the armpit and high fever.
Folding his hands he prayed to the saint,
'O Gajanan, please see that my routine visit
On the scheduled day is not disturbed a bit.
Let me reach and touch your feet today.
Then I don't care if Death takes me away.
Please protect me till I reach you all the way ... 37

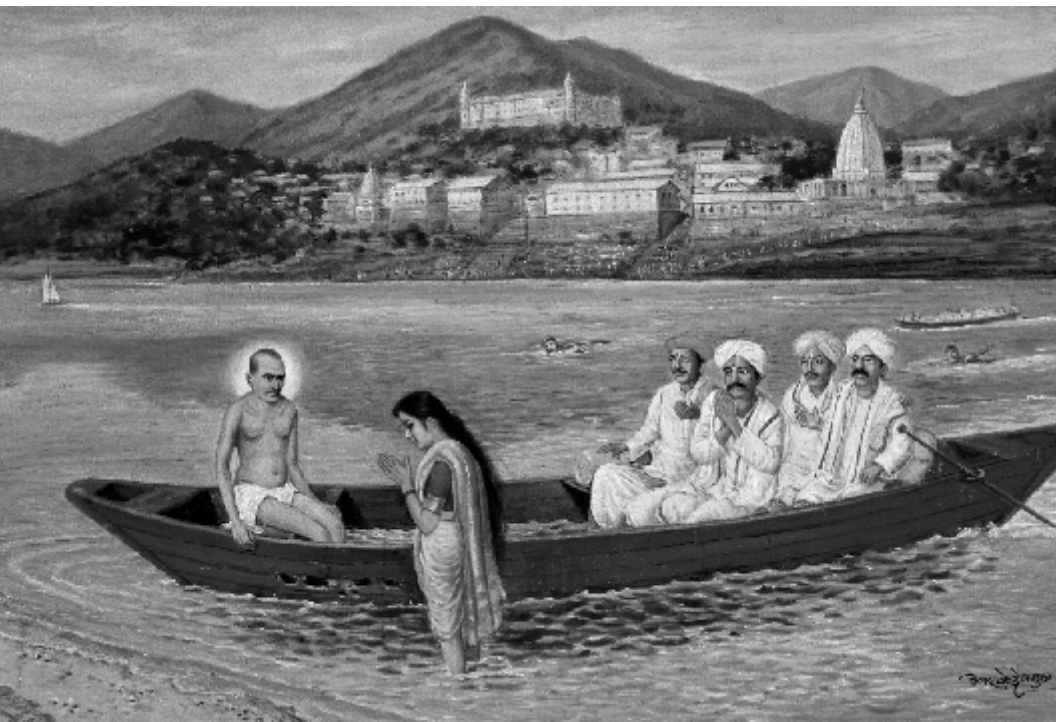
Visits to shrines and holy places
Are possible only if the traveler is in good health.
Looking at Pundalik's sick state
His father felt sorry immensely.
He prayed to God to save his only son
And offered a bullock cart to reach Shegaon soon.
Pundalik replied, 'No. I must go on foot only.
I will make it walking slowly ... 38

He said, 'If I die take my body to Shegaon.
Don't worry about me at all.'
He walked the distance in great pain
And reached the feet of the saint.
And in front of him he fell prostrate.
Looking at Pundalik the saint pressed
His own armpit with his hand and said,
'Pundalik your malady is over. Don't now fret' ... 39

When Maharaj said this,
The gland in Pundalik's armpit suddenly vanished.
The feeling of weakness also disappeared
When Maharaj ate morsels of food sent by his mother.
Pundalik started feeling better.
This was the reward for his devotion.
A great example for non believers.
Absolute devotion brings in desired results ... 40

Pundalik returned to Mundgaon after this visit.
Reading about him will avert all your perils.
This is a real biography and not a concoction.
Everything narrated is what actually happened.
There is no reason for anyone
To doubt the blessings of Gajanan.
May this treatise about the saint
Bring the readers all happiness ... 41

Chapter Fourteen



'O kind lady,' they said, 'tell us who you are.

You have saved us from disaster bizarre.

Now change your clothes, they are wet.

For you here we have a dry set.

Narmada said, 'I am daughter of Omkar the fisherman.

My name is Narmada. For wet clothes I don't care.

I will always remain wet

My form is water. I like it best.'

Chapter 14

Shree Ganeshay namah

Shree Ram, Son of Kausalya
Crown of the Raghu dynasty,
Seetapati, have compassion on me.
I am just a child
You liberated Tratika, also rescued Ahalya
Trapped as stone
And made Shabari happy by visiting her home ... 1

Son of Dashrath, you renounced the crown
To protect your devotees from being mowed down.
Monkeys got strength from your blessings
To assist you in your righteous battle.
O killer of Ravan the demon
Your name made stones float in the ocean.
You installed on the throne devotee Bibhishan.
Those who submit to you get rid of all tribulations ...2

Please remember to protect this writer.
How can a child escape away from the mother?
Your divinity encompasses all the three-
Father, Mother and Guru
You are Kalpataru,
the tree fulfilling all desires.
You are the Almighty so protect me in this strife
And guide me through this ocean of life ... 3

A Brahmin named Bandutatya lived in Mehekar
He was a pious man of generous nature.
In this business called existence
There are ups and downs every instance.
Even then one trades with persistence
And gets completely entangled in affection ... 4

Bandutatya hosted many a guest
And looked personally to their comforts
This went on and on until all his money was gone.
He borrowed some from money lenders
By mortgaging his house and gardens.
With his debts towering tall
He felt ashamed and avoided all ... 5

He even sold his utensils
Until he was left with nothing.
Even as he suffered penury
The creditors chased him for money.
He couldn't afford even two square meals.
His wife and offsprings insulted him a great deal.
Because of such a poor credit rating
No one would anymore lend him money ... 6

He became frustrated with his life
And started thinking of committing suicide.
No one respects penniless men.
Sweet home turns into a sorrowful den.
This is the way of this world insane.
Bandutatya thought of jumping in a well
But if someone saw and pulled him out,
He thought he may be charged for attempted suicide ...7

So he decided to go to Himalayan heights
To kill himself and avoid charge of suicide.
He left with a loin cloth and ash smeared all over his body
To hide his identity.
People of high society are afraid of public condemnation.
Bandu Tatyta said in his mind, ... 8

'O God why are you so much displeased with me?
I lived a life of full faith in thee.
Scriptures say that even a beggar becomes wealthy
With your grace O Almighty.
My present experience is something else.
It makes me think of the poets as insane
Who have described you as full of grace
And benefactor of the oppressed ... 9

O Divinity, I owe this life to thee.
If I die the blame will be all on you, Almighty.
Please save yourself from this indignity.'
Saying thus Bandutatya went
To the railway counter to purchase a ticket.
A Brahmin approached him with a suggestion,
'Don't buy a ticket to Haridwar station ... 10

First go and bow down to one,
A saint called Shree Gajanan.
Before you proceed to Haridwar
Go and meet him at Shegaon.
Don't take such hasty steps
Because of momentary frustration.
Know that a glimpse of the Saint
Will positively bring you a solution.' ... 11

Bandutatya was confused
Fearing he would be recognized.
He was shy of asking the person's name and identity
Nor did he know this personality.
However he decided to go to Shegaon
And pay respects to Gajanan Maharaj.
He went and bowed down to the saint
Where upon the saint laughed and said, ... 12

'Why do you go to Himalaya to end your life?
No one should kill himself nor lose hope.
None should stop trying to get desired things.
If you commit suicide due to problems in life

You will be born again to undergo sufferings
Avoided by you in this span of living.
So don't rush to Himalaya to drown in the Ganges.
Instead go home immediately to end your stress ... 13

Have you recognized the Brahmin
Who met you at the railway station?
Go back and don't stay a moment further.
There is a shrine of God Mhasoba in your garden.
Go there alone at midnight.
And dig three feet deep under the acacia tree.
The tree is to the east of the Deity.
There you will find money in plenty ... 14

Square off your creditors and keep the rest for yourself.
Don't leave your wife and children.
Forget this false idea of renunciation.'
Hearing this Bandu returned to Kherda, his town.
At midnight he went on his own
The acacia tree as advised
He found a copper pot covered with a lid ... 15

When he opened the lid
He found four hundred gold coins in it.
He lifted it and danced again and again
Chanting Jai Gajanan! Jai Gajanan!
He paid off the creditors
And repaid the mortgage on his house
By the grace of Shree Gajanan he set right his affairs
And was very happy once again ... 16

It was like nectar to a patient on death bed
Or a life saving boat to a drowning mate.
Bandutatya was in a similar state.
All adversity was erased from his fate.
He came to Shegaon and spent on charity.
He bowed down to the saint, who said with authority,
'Why do you bow down to me?
Why not to God who got you all this? ... 17

Now wake up and be clever.
Be judicious in spending money hereafter.
It is better not to be over liberal.
People come to you in your good days
But God is with you always.
Pray to him. He will never neglect you.'
Hearing this Bandutatya bowed down to the saint
And returned to his village ... 18

New Moon on a Monday
Called Somavati Amavasya, is an auspicious day.
Much has been said about this in the holy texts.
Bathing in the river Narmada brings devotees all bliss.
It brings good luck and affluence
Everyone knows of this influence.
People of Shegaon were too aware
And planned a visit to the Narmada river ... 19

Among them were Martand Patil, Bankatlal,
Maruti Chandrabhan and Bajaranglal.
They all decided to go to Omkareshwar.
They thought if Maharaj comes it would be better.
They approached him and requested him for his company
Saying that his presence would avert any calamity.
They pleaded with Maharaj to concede to their request.
Where upon the Maharaj said, ... 20

'Holy Narmada is always with me here.
There is no need to go to Onkareshwar.
I will have my Narmada bath here in Shegaon.
You may all proceed to the river.
A famous king Mandhata had ruled Omkareshwar.
Shree Shankaracharya took his vow of renunciation
Before starting his religious mission there
Of liberating people from mundane affairs ... 21

So you proceed and meet the river,
Don't force me to go there.
I need not undergo such rituals.'

They did not listen to him and bowing down
Pressed their request again and again.
Maharaj said, 'You are hypocrites.
The well water here contains Narmada's might.
If I go there Narmada will feel it a slight ... 22

So in your interest leave me alone.
Please go on your own.
Believe me it is in your own interest.'
To which Maruti and Chandrabhan said
That without him they would abandon the trip.
Maharaj then warned them they should not blame him
If something bad happens
By his accompanying them ... 23

Thus they all came to Omkareshwar.
For Somavati, it was a big gathering there.
Men and women were thronged on the banks of the river.
Some were taking a holy dip,
Some others chanting hymns from the scripts
Some carried flowers to the temple
To offer them to the idol.
Many others were eating sweets ... 24

Groups of religious singers came in scores.
Some offered to God abhishek, a religious shower.
At that pleasant place, Omkareshwar
Maharaj sat in a Padmasan pose by the river.
The four devotees accompanying him
Went to the Temple for the darshan.
On their way back they suggested
That road journey was unsafe as it was congested ... 25

They thought the bullocks of their cart were undependable
And suggested that they go back by a boat on the river.
Maharaj said, 'Do what you like.'
They hired a small boat of choice.
They all boarded the boat in action
On their journey back to Khedighat station.

The boat dashed on a rock on the way
And a plank at the bottom was washed away ... 26

Recognizing the risk the boatmen jumped in to the river,
To save their lives. The pilgrims were scared.
Maharaj sat nonchalantly chanting his favorite hymn.
Others were perturbed, their hearts throbbed with fright.
With folded hands they prayed to Maharaj,
'We are guilty of disobedience from the start.
As a result Goddess Narmada is angry
And is punishing by trying to drown us ... 27

O Saint, hereafter we will obey each word of yours.
As if it is directed by the Vedas revered.
Please save us from this danger
And take us back to Shegaon unhurt.'
By this time half the boat was under water.
While they were engaged in the prayer
Onlookers who gauged the situation said,
'For these five the end is near.' ... 28

'Don't get scared.' Said the saint,
'River Narmada will not harm you in vain.'
Thus saying the saint sang praise
To the River Goddess Narmada which goes like this,
'O sacred Narmada Devi,
Destroyer of all things inauspicious and evil,
Pardon our faults with your benevolence.'
Water receded the boat that very instance ... 29

The hole at the bottom of the boat was sealed
By the hand of Goddess Narmada indeed.
She came dressed as a fisherwoman,
Was wet up to her waist and had curly hair.
When the boat reached the bank
Everyone looked at the broken plank.
It was completely sealed and intact.
They all were surprised at that ... 30

'O kind lady,' they said, 'tell us who you are.
You have saved us from disaster bizarre.
Now change your clothes, they are wet.
For you here we have a dry set.
Narmada said, 'I am daughter of Omkar the fisherman.
My name is Narmada. For wet clothes I don't care.
I will always remain wet
My form is water. I like it best.' ... 31

Saying thus she bowed down to the saint
Disappearing like lightening in a moment.
Looking at that all the four persons were delighted.
They were spellbound to see the Saint's authority
Where Narmada came for the glimpse of the Saint.
Even then Bankat asked Maharaj as to who she was.
'She has already told you her name
The fisherman is this Omkareshwar of fame ... 32

She said her form is water,
She is actually the Narmada River.
Do not harbor any doubts about her.
She helps her devotees in times of danger.
Say 'Jai' to her in her honor.'
Hearing this Bankat and the other three
Prostrated before Maharaj.
And narrated the incident at Shegaon.' ... 33

Once Sadashiv Ranganath Wanawale
Along with his friend came to Shegaon
For the darshan of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He was called Taty and was a disciple
Of Chitrakut's Shree Madhavnath Maharaj,
Who had mastered the art of Yoga
And had a large following at Malwa.
Sadashiv entered the room of the Maharaj ... 34

Maharaj was taking his meals.
When he saw Sadashiv he remembered
Shree Madhavnath Maharaj.

Saints know each other without meeting.
'Bring those disciples of Shree Nath to me.
Their guru just went away after taking meals with me.'
Being children of his brother
He gave them a traditional reception.' ... 35

He gave Sadashiv two leaves of betel for ShreeNath
And asked to say a message without altering the form.
'We had a meal together but you forgot your paan here.'
Say,' we have now brought it to you.'
Wanawale returned with the two leaves of betel.
He narrated to ShreeMadhavnath his conversation in details
And asked him whether he had really gone
For a meal to Shegaon ... 36

Shree Madhavnath said, 'What Shree Gajanan said is true.
His remembering me at the time of meals is our meeting.
We meet each other like that quite frequently.
Do not have any doubt about it.
Remembering each other is our meeting.
Though we have different bodies
Our life breath is the same ... 37

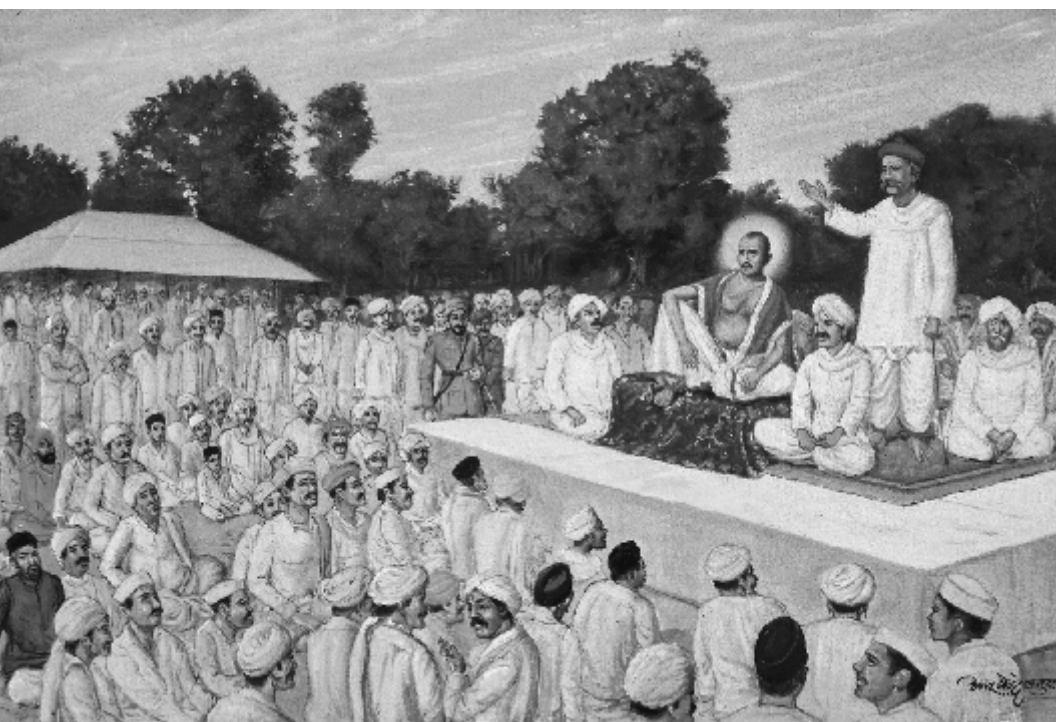
This subject is very deep.
You may require time to understand it.
It is good you brought the pan I forgot there.'
Shree Nath crushed and ate the pan.
He gave a part to Wanawale as prasad.
Shree Dnyaneshwar Maharaj in his 'Changadeo Pasasathi'
Has described in detail how saints meet.
One should understand this manner of meeting ... 38

It is interesting that yogis meet each other
From any place though they are not near.
Shaikh Mohammad was at Shri Gonda
And Saint Tukaram at Dehu
When the pendal of kirtan caught fire.
Shaikh extinguished it from a distance
Though Gonda was far from there ... 39

This coincidence of events is narrated by Mahipati
In 'Bhakti Vijay' about saints over all.
Shree Manik Prabhu saved Patil's son
From drowning in a well reaching Holi village.
Only yogis can perform such miracles.
Yoga is more powerful than anything else.
Learn yoga to serve the nation sincerely ... 40

May affectionate devotees with all faith
Listen to this treatise for prosperity, wealth and health.

Chapter Fifteen



Can the present Government give us this training?
Hearing this taunting language
Directed towards the Government
Maharaj got up and smilingly said,
'Don't say that. It may land you
In prison, arrested by the Government.'
Thus saying the saint started
To chant his favorite hymn for some moments

Chapter 15

Shree Ganeshay namah

You obliged Baliraja by accepting an offering from him.
And took away his reign on earth by giving him world
below.

You received a juicy fruit by offering a coconut.
Yet worked as his doorman due to his extreme devotion to
you.

Baliraja became the king of Gods at the end of his epoch.
You learnt the Vedas in a moment
In your reincarnations this one is most pious
As you killed no one at the best ... 1

You made friends and foes happy equally.
That's why they respect you similarly.
In this incarnation you have satisfied Gods,
Pleased the demons
And proved your Godliness to the generations.
O Waman, I again bow down to you.
Bless the writer to see this treatise through ... 2

Bal Gangadhar Tilak,
Kohinoor of Maharashtra had keen foresight
And excelled in political activities.
He was a brave person who worked ceaselessly
For the independence of the country.
He was stubborn like Bhishma
And understood the people's agony ... 3

He took a vow to liberate the land
Which was being ruled by foreign hands
He feared none as his cause was true.
He had command on words like Brihaspati.
His fiery writings panicked the ruling community.
He was a courageous and was addressed
As 'Lokmanya' Tilak with great respect,
A public acknowledgement, not an act of favor ... 4

Once he was to come to Akola by public request
To deliver a speech at the 'Shiv Jayanti' fest.
Many learned celebrities were to be present.
Damle, Kolhatkar, Khaparde at the best.
They reached Akola for the festival.
People of Berar were happy to know
That Tilak was attending the function
Which in fact should have been celebrated here earlier, ... 5

The reason being that Sivaji's mother
Jijabai was born and brought up in Sindkhed near.
When Shivaji was born by the dint of her ability
She brought about Maharashtra and Berar's unity.
Mother from Berar and father from Maharashtra
Were an excellent incomparable couple.
The celebration was a great occasion for Maharashtra
The greatness was further enhanced by Tilak's participation
... 6

Preparation for the festival started a month ahead.
Every one participated happily with great interest.
Officials for the reception committee were elected.
So also volunteers were selected.
To lend dignity to the function
Many people wanted to invite Shree Gajanan.
They said that Shivaji's service to the nation
Was victorious due to Ramdas Swami's benediction ...7

Some others did not like the idea.
They said the Saint may come naked
And may even strike the Lokmanya.
Others disagreed and still insisted
That the Saint should grace the place.
He may at times act queer but that would not matter ... 8

Some said Tilak was a great leader of the nation
And Saint Gajanan would definitely attend the function.
Most of them supported the suggestion
Of inviting Saint Gajanan to the function.
A group of organizers went to Shegaon
To extend an invitation to Maharaj.
Looking at them the saint said to Khaparde,
'I will come on the appointed day ... 9

It is the birth day celebration of Shivaji.
I will certainly appear on stage and demeanor
In the company of the invited social reformers.
Tilak is the most able leader
Fighting in the cause of our liberation.
There will be no one to compare with him.
I will come to meet him and Anna Patwardhan,
Disciple of Shree Narasinh Saraswati of Alandi' ... 10

Khaparde was glad that Shree Maharaj
Accepted the invitation.
He said to Kolhatkar that Maharaj was the gem of Berar.
He could know everything
That will happen at Akola convention
And acceptance of the invitation
Was a good omen for the function.
They bowed down to Maharaj and went back ... 11

Only eight days were left for the celebration.
People at Akola were waiting for the arrival of Tilak.
The function was to take place in the month of Vaishakh
In Shaka one thousand eight hundred and thirty.
The day was Akshaya Tritiya, an important festival date.

A huge pandal was erected for the guests
Who gathered from far and near
To see Tilak at the fare ... 12

They also knew that the saint was to attend the function.
That was an added attraction.
Shree Gajanan reached in time as promised
And sat on the dais along with
Tilak, Patwardhan, Khaparde,
Damle, Kolhatkar, Bhawe,
Venkatrao Desai and others.
The meeting was called to order ... 13

After the introductory speech
The thundering orator Tilak stood up to speak.
He said, 'This is an auspicious day.
Great Shivaji who fought for the nation
Was born on this day.
Blessings of Ramdas Swami
Helped him to spread his name over all the country.
So will the Saint's at this meeting ... 14

I sincerely hope this meeting is as victorious
As great Shivaji's life and achievements.
The Nation today needs such meetings and functions.
The sun of independence has set all over.
There is nothing but darkness of slavery in the sphere.
Any Nation without independence is life less.
It is necessary to awaken the people
To enhance their love for freedom ... 15

Can the present Government give us this training?'
Hearing this taunting language
Directed towards the Government
Maharaj got up and smilingly said,
'Don't say that. It may land you
In prison, arrested by the Government.'
Thus saying the saint started
To chant his favorite hymn for some moments ... 16

The function concluded with great success.
People appreciated Tilak with cheers.
But the prophecy of Maharaj came true the same year.
Tilak was arrested under section One twenty four.
In the face of the Ruler's strength everyone was helpless.
Renowned lawyers rushed to defend Tilak in legal process.
Other devotees wanted to try the spiritual way
To save him from the punishment ... 17

Dadasaheb Khaparde, a great man from Amaravati
Went to Mumbai to attend the trial in court.
On the way at Akola he said to Kolhatkar,
'You go to Shegaon to seek the saint's favor.
Request him to save Tilak from this calamity.
I would have stopped here
But I have to rush to Mumbai city.
Please go and request for his blessing.' ... 18

Kolhatkar immediately rushed to Shegaon.
The saint was sleeping as he looked on.
He slept for three days. His night was long.
Kolhatkar did not move away from there.
He was Tilak's ardent follower.
Water cannot boil without fire.
Feelings of closeness cannot be reflected without affection.
Maharaj woke up when three days were over ... 19

When he woke up he said,
'All your efforts will be fruitless.
Remember that in spite of the blessings of Ramdas
Shivaji was arrested by the Moguls.
There can be no independence unless people suffer.
Many instances can be quoted on this ... 20

If you remember the story of Kansa
You will understand what I say.
I give you a piece of bread.
Please deliver it to Tilak at the earliest

Though his going far away cannot be avoided.
Kolhatkar got confused when he heard this.
He bowed down to the saint with respect ... 21

He left for Mumbai with the piece of bread.
He narrated everything when he reached there
And gave Tilak the Prasad he had.
Tilak was happy. He commented,
'Gajanan Maharaj is a great saint.
Events may take a turn as he said.
You will not succeed in this case
Government will follow the law as set ... 22

Rules are followed strictly
When self interest is not involved.
Maharaj said I would do some great work.
This I am unable to understand.
Saints are aware of past, present and future.
We are ordinary people.
Let us see what the future holds ... 23

Tilak powdered the bread and ate it
As he had no teeth.
There after he was sentenced to imprisonment
And was sent to Mandalay for confinement.
There he wrote his treatise on Geeta.
This was the great work the Saint talked about.
It has been acclaimed as the best throughout
By saints and scholars all over ... 24

Many a treatise were written on Geeta.
Each one interpreted them at different angles.
They connected the thoughts with various philosophies.
Tilak's work stands aloft in this mingle.
This spread his fame world wide
And made him a writer incomparable.
Getting freedom wouldn't be as immense
As writing this philosophical commentary ... 25

Possession is something material and transient.
Work on philosophy is permanent.
This writing brought Tilak great fame.
He has gained an eminent place
In the list of philosophers of our time.
His work will be read over and over
Till the sun and moon shine in the spheres ... 26

A Chitpavan Brahmin boy from Karvir, Kolhapur
Joined an English medium school.
He passed matriculation examination.
Then he joined college
But failed at the Intermediate attempt.
While reading the news paper 'Kesari'
He read Oyama and Togo's biographies ... 27

Like them he wished to go abroad
And get technical training.
They brought prosperity to Japan.
He wished to do it for his country.
He was helpless as he had no money.
As all of us are aware no one helps the poor.
He went to Bhandara to consult his friend ... 28

His friend was a teacher at Mannro high school
Who heard the proposal with a mind so cool.
Though he liked the idea
He had no funds to spare.
Nothing is possible without money dear.
The poor have to build castles in the air.
Due to the hot summer in Bhandara
They decided to go back to Kolhapur ... 29

Having heard of the great Saint
They got down at Shegaon station.
They kept their luggage at the post Office
And went to the monastery straight.
Bowing down to him they sat there with folded hands.
With his divine power

Maharaj knew the desire of Shridhar.
The saint advised him as under, ... 30

'Don't think of going abroad.
You can get everything here.
Material knowledge is of no avail
Strength of spiritual knowledge prevails,
It can bring satisfaction to you.'
Shridhar experienced a sudden change in his thinking
That reminded him of a Saint at Karvir
Who used to talk like this to him ... 31

Sensing the confusion in his mind
The saint said a few words kind,
'Do not leave this holy land
One gets his birth here only
If he has credit of good deeds in his hands.
Yogashastra is superior to any other science.
One well versed in it will never care
For any other branch of knowledge ... 32

Knowledge of self however is more superior.
Please try to experience that and don't go anywhere.'
Shridhar was very happy with the advice.
He thought that the sun of his thoughts
Had set in the west
And had risen anew in the east with fresh ideas ... 33

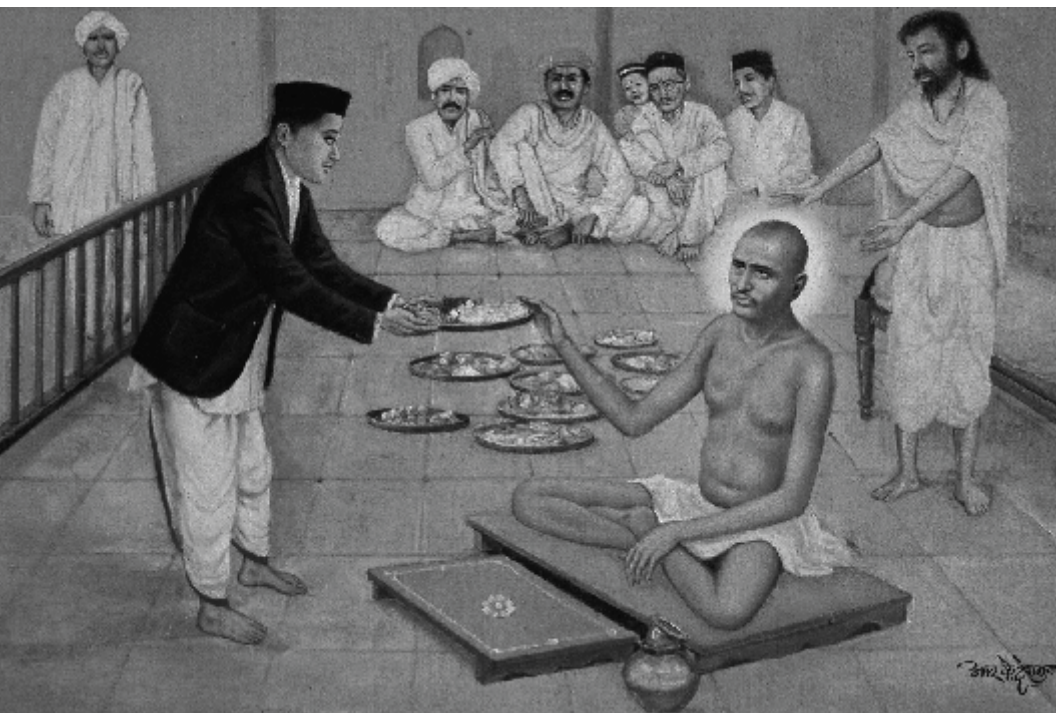
Only saints can bring in such change in thoughts
Because they are aware of all the facts.
The saint said further,
'You will prosper here. Now go back to Kolhapur
Your wife is waiting for you there.'
The prophesy proved true
And Shridhar prospered well ... 34

He passed his B.A. and M.A. examinations
And became Principal of a college at Shivapuri
In the Schindia's regime.

Saints are God's incarnate on this earth.
Those who get their blessings always prosper.
Change in Shridhar's thoughts was due to Gajanan Maharaj.
Such saints are found only in our holy land.
Trees of heaven will not get roots elsewhere ... 35

May this treatise always show the right path
To the devotees.

Chapter Sixteen



The saint did not touch any of those things
And said he would take his food in the evening.
Persons offering food to him may wait
Or go away if they so wished.
Bhau reached Shegaon
And was happy to see the Saint there
Like a child seeing his long lost mother

Chapter 16

Shree Ganeshay namah.

O Parshudhara son of Jamadagni,
Glory to you. Don't ignore me.
Not tolerate the insults inflicted by Sahasrarjun
You killed him and protected the Brahmins.
It now appears that you are neglecting their plight.
Please open your eyes.
It is necessary in the present situation
To save the Aryan culture ... 1

Mysterious are the ways of Gajanan Maharaj.
No one can predict them.
There was a devotee of him at Mundgaon.
Pundalik Bhokre was his name.
He visited Shegaon on a fixed day every month
For the darshan of the saint.
He was devoted to Saint Gajanan
Who was like God to him ... 2

A woman named Bhagabai lived in the same village.
She could not concentrate
On anything as she had a wavering mind.
She was a great hypocrite.
Her past time was to fool people.
Once Pundalik came to her sight.
She said, 'You have wasted your life all through
As you as yet have no Guru ... 3

In spite of your visits to Shegaon
Your Guru is not Gajanan Maharaj.
Tell me whether he has uttered
A sacred hymn in your ear called as a Guru Mantra.
Mind you one cannot become a Guru
Without proper rituals.
In fact Maharaj is a crazy person ... 4

You call him a Guru because he relieved you of your fever.
It was just a coincidence.
Don't be a victim to such gimmicks ever.
His chanting of a hymn, his idiotic behavior,
Eating food from any body's hands
Shows him to be a fallen person.
Let us seek a Guru elsewhere ... 5

We shall go to Anjangaon
And make Kakaji's disciple as our Guru.
Let us leave early in the morning
To attend his Kirtan and seek the truth.
Guru should be well read, learned and wise.
Expert in all scriptures and treatise,
Of good caliber and a good guide
To help you in the ways of life ... 6

No such qualities are seen in Gajanan
So let us go to Anjangaon.'
Pundalik a pious man was disturbed by these remarks.
He gave his consent to her for going
To Anjangaon the next morning.
After this decision he slept well. In the later half of the night
He saw in his dream a person like Gajanan Maharaj ... 7

The person in his dream said to a sleepy Pundalik,
'You seem to have decided to leave
For Anjangaon with Bhagabai.
For getting a Guru of your choice. You may go if you like.
His name is Kashinath. Please remember.
You will be disappointed when you go there ... 8

Can a person become your Guru
By whispering something in your ears?
When people whisper in each other's ears
Do they become Guru of each other?
Pundalik, don't go after hypocrites.
Listen to me with care.
I will chant a Mantra in your ear.'
'Gan gan ganat bote.' He whispered ... 9

After a silence of a moment
He further said to Pundalik,
Ask me for anything and your wish will be fulfilled.
Pundalik was happy with these words.
He minutely observed the person in his dream
And was glad to see that he was none else
Than Shree Gajanan Maharaj himself ... 10

Pundalik asked for nothing else
Except the 'Paduka' of the saint himself.
The person said, 'Take them soon
And worship them tomorrow noon.
Pundalik woke up at this moment to take the Padukas.
No one was there not even the Padukas.
He felt confused, yet he knew
That the blessings of the saint will shine through ... 11

He remembered the Saint's comments
On Bhagabai's intents and his instructions
To Worship Padukas in the afternoon session.
According to this, He had to have Padukas for worship.
As he did not have them he decided
To get a new set made ... 12

But he remembered that the Saint had given him
His own Padukas in his dream.
While he was thinking of it all
He heard Bhagabai giving him a call
To go with her to Anjangaon.

He refused to go with her
As he would not accept any other mentor.
Bhagabai went to Anjangaon thereafter ... 13

Just two days prior to this incident
Zyamsingh Rajput of Mundgaon
Had gone to Shegaon for darshan of Gajanan Maharaj.
When he was about to leave for his town
Maharaj called Balabhau and spoke on,
'Send my padukas with Zyamsingh
To be given to Pundalik.' ... 14

Balabhau gave the padukas to Zyamsingh
Who carried them back for Pundalik.
Pundalik was waiting at the entrance of the village
And asked Zyamsingh if anything was sent.
Zyamsingh was surprised and took him to his residence
And enquired of the reason for asking this question.
Pundalik told him of the dream
Which cleared the doubts in Zyamsingh's mind ... 15

He handed over the padukas to Pundalik.
They are now installed at Mundagaon.
For him this was a great boon.
He worshipped the padukas in the afternoon.
Real saints take care of their devotees
And dissuade them from wrong doing.
When you read of this event, you will realize
How a saint gets his devotees wishes fulfilled ... 16

In Akola lived Rajaram Kavar of Brahmin community
Who was a dealer in gold and silver ornaments of quality.
He and his sons had great faith
In Shegaon's great saint.
His sons were Gopal and Trimbak.
Trimbak also called 'Bhau' was the younger.
He studied at the Medical College at Hyderabad.
From his childhood he believed in Maharaj ... 17

In times of difficulty
He always remembered the saint.
Once when he came on his vacation
He wished to offer him food of his liking.
How to do it was his problem.
His mother had died when he was a child.
His brother's wife Nani had a temper wild.
He prayed to Maharaj to help him this time ... 18

'O Maharaj, I desire to offer you food you enjoy,
Bhakar, onion and vegetables of your choice.
But who will prepare all this?
Only a mother can fulfill her child's wish.'
While he said this Nani appeared
And asked him the reason for his despair.
When he was hesitant she assured,
'Elder brother's wife is like mother. Be sure.' ... 19

He felt encouraged and told her his plans.
And that he wanted to go to Shegaon.
She happily went to the kitchen
And packed a box containing the Tiffin
Containing three breads, three onions and besan.
She asked him to hurry to the railway station
So that he can catch the train in time.
Alas! He missed the noon train which was designed ... 20

He said, 'O Maharaj, why have you disappointed me?
I am an orphan and have always missed
The pleasure of doing a good deed.
I feel like a crow unable to reach
Manas Sarovar at Himalaya's feet.
What unpardonable mistake have I committed
To miss the twelve o'clock train?
It's my bad luck, nothing else again ... 21

I vow that if this food is not served to you today
I will not eat anything, I say.

Please do not ignore this child of yours
And rush to eat this special food made for you here.
You are very potent.
When you can reach Kedareshwar in a moment,
Then why do you hesitate
To arrive here at my request? ... 22

I am not ordering you
But calling you with affection.
I don't mean to insult you under any condition.
Next train to Shegaon is after three hours.
I think by that time you will finish your lunch.' ... 23

Bhau waited at the station without eating anything
And went to Shegaon by the three o'clock train.
He noticed that Maharaj had not taken his meals
Though plates full of food were waiting for him in vain.
They included sweets like jalebi, gheevar,
motichur, shrikhand puri and kheer.
Balabhau had put them before the saint
So that after him the devotees could eat ... 24

The saint did not touch any of those things
And said he would take his food in the evening.
Persons offering food to him may wait
Or go away if they so wished.
Bhau reached Shegaon
And was happy to see the Saint there
Like a child seeing his long lost mother ... 25

He bowed down to the Saint
And stood there with folded hands
Awaiting the Saint's command.
The Saint looked up, smiled and said,
'What sort of invitation is this?
Is this the time to eat food?
I did not eat because of your request.
Now let us eat and enjoy the feast.' ... 26

Bhau was happy with these words
And explained the reason of his delay.
Balabhau asked him not to regret
And serve the food at the earliest.
Balabhau took out the food and gave it to the Saint
Who ate two Bhakri's and onion
And gave the rest as Prasad to the others.
They were surprised to see the love of Maharaj for his
devotees ... 27

It was like Shree Krishna staying with Vidur
And participating the humble food
Instead of the sweets at Kauravs.
Similarly Maharaj waited for bhakri of Bhau Kavar
Instead of sweets and delicacies.
Bhau also took Prasad
Given by Shree Maharaj.
Sincere devotion makes such things happen ... 28

Maharaj told Bhau to go back to his town
And blessed him that he would pass the medical exam.
Bhau told him that he would come back for blessings
And not for any personal things.
He said that the Saint's feet were his only wealth.
This is what he will cherish always.
Thus saying he went back
To Akola from where he came ... 29

A pious person named Tukaram Shegokar
From the town of Shegaon
Tilled his meager share of land.
After the hard work of the day
He used to go to the monaistry and pray.
He helped the saint in filling his pipe
And did sundry work in sight.
This was his routine for many days ... 30

Yet there is a destiny which alters our ends.
Things will take shape as it intends.

As usual one morning Tukaram went to his fields.
He sat warming himself up near the fire.
Behind him was sitting a white rabbit
Partly hiding in the bushes near.
A hunter searching for rabbits
Spotted it from not far away ... 31

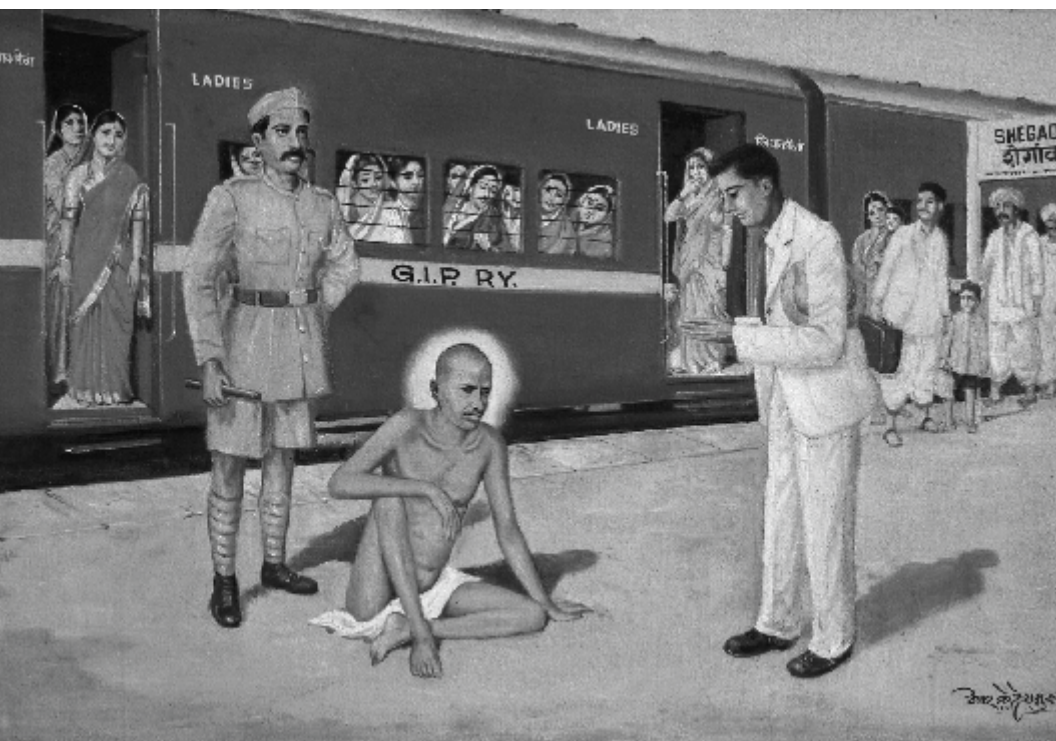
He aimed his gun pointing at the rabbit
Shooting it dead in a fraction of a minute.
But a stray shots hit Tukaram
Behind one of his ears.
Doctors failed to take the bullet out.
He suffered great pain in his head
And lost his sleep all throughout.
His vows to God too brought no respite ... 32

This did not deter him from going to the monastery.
A devotee there advised him to stop medication
And engage himself in full service of the saint.
He swept the floors there to get the blessings.
Tukaram did it for fourteen years
Keeping the floors clear like a mirror.
Then one fine day
The shot behind his ear dropped and fell away ... 33

The pain vanished
Certainly a reward for the continued service
To Saint Gajanan indeed.
Spiritual belief generally emits
From experience and stays firm
In the minds of those who serve.
Services offered to the Saints
Never ever go waste ... 34

May this treatise
Bring peace to the readers mind.

Chapter Seventeen



He was quiet until the departure of the train.
When the bell rang for the train to start
Unnoticed he moved on
And entered the ladies compartment.
The sight of a bare saint scared the women.
They immediately informed the policemen
Who came to drag him out of the compartment

Chapter 17

Shree Ganeshay namah.

Jai to you the most auspicious one!
Jai To the protector of devotees
Jai to God blue as a Tamal leaf
And the savior of the down trodden.
You killed Hirannyakashyapu,
Enemy of good people by emerging out of a pillar
To protect Pralhad ... 1

You had then a peerless form,
With fierce teeth and a violent jaw,
Mane flowing on the neck and eyes red aglow
Looking as if it was burning the earth below
And the entire universe was alight.
With his ferocious exterior
But devotees were not scared ... 2

They were like cubs playing in the lap of tiger.
Looking at you even Goddess Lakshmi
Did not dare to be in your vicinity,
Though the devotees could touch your feet.
O Lakshmikant loving your devotees
You fulfill their needs never saying 'no' to them.
The writer bows down to you to make him fearless ... 3

Many devotees of the saint stayed in Akola town
Whom he visited frequently on his own.
They were Bapukrishna of Chapadgaon,
Kashinath, Jijibai Pandit, Bachulal son of Gondulal

And many others of the vicinity.
Once when he was staying at the Khatav Mills
Vishnusa of Malkapur wanted to bring the Saint to his city
... 4

He requested Bhaskar to arrange for this trip.
This was the same Bhaskar of Adgaon who attained
nirvana.
He used to look after the Saint's comforts and needs.
Vishnusa depended on Bhaskar for the Saint's blessings.
Bhaskar requested Maharaj to visit Malkapur
As Vishnusa had invited him on this tour.
The Saint said, 'Don't force me. I don't want to go.
You will regret it if you insist ... 5

If a rope is stretched too much it breaks.
I don't desire to get away from this place
So do not bother me for God's sake.'
Bhaskar replied, 'Whatever you say
Please visit Malkapur for Vishnusa's sake.
I, your most humble devotee
Have promised him that you will be in his home.
Your refusal is shocking to me ... 6

Please honor my promise. Let us go to Malkapur.'
A persistent Bhaskar brought Shree Gajanan
To the Akola railway station.
On Bhasker's request
The station Master got a compartment vacated
For Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Who did not say anything or move at all ... 7

He was quiet until the departure of the train.
When the bell rang for the train to start
Unnoticed he moved on
And entered the ladies compartment.
The sight of a naked saint scared the women.
They immediately informed the policemen
Who came to drag him out of the compartment ... 8

They said, 'O you nude, have you no sense?
How did you enter the ladies compartment?'
With a jerk the saint freed his hand without fear
And continued to sit there in spite of the officers.
They now brought the Station Master in the picture.
When he saw the saint sitting here
He requested the police to let him be there
As he was a great saint unlikely to commit any offence ... 9

The Police officer said he had sent a telegram
To higher ups and there was nothing more in his hands.
So he will do whatever he thinks.
The Station Master took off his hat as a mark of respect
And requested the Saint to come out of the compartment.
He did it to respect the law.
A case was lodged against Maharaj
Which came for hearing in the court of Shri Jathar ... 10

He fixed the hearing at Shegaon
And stayed at the rest house while the case was on.
Venkatrao Desai of Akola was there too.
He had some work to be attended to.
Hearing of the announcement of the case
A lot of people gathered at the place.
Desai then asked Jathar what was the case about
And why it has attracted such a crowd ... 11

Jathar was surprised at Desai's ignorance
And said that the case was against Shree Gajanan
For moving bare bodied in the community.
Desai folded his hands and said to the authority,
'This is an improper case.
Shree Gajanan is a great saint,
An incarnation of God, a divine person,
A holy man with no material intention ... 12

He is a yogi with no bondage at all,
A yogi of yogis respected by all.
The police have erred in prosecuting the saint.

Please withdraw the case and correct the mistake.'
Jathar replied that The police should have been discreet
But now under the law his hands are tied ... 13

He then ordered his clerk to get the Saint.
To bring him there a police officer was sent.
The officer asked him to go as stated
And threatened to take him forcibly if he resisted.
Maharaj refused to budge an inch
And asked the officer to try and take him by his might.
Maharaj with his hand caught hand of the constable
And caught it so tight that his blood flow was hindered ...
14

The constable was uncomfortable with pain.
Since he did not return in time Venkatrao Desai was sent.
Jathar asked the crowd To disperse and not stand around.
When Desai reached the site
He heard of the constable's plight.
He asked the devotees to clothe Maharaj.
They did but he threw away the lot ... 15

He went bare to the court where he was offered a seat.
Shri Jathar said, 'It is improper to go naked on the street.
It is against the law. I request you not to go bare and
uncovered.
Shree Maharaj replied, 'How are you concerned?
Now fill up my pipe and don't be bothered.
Hearing this Shri Jathar melted down
And realized that the Saint was different
From the mundane crowd, ... 16

He compared the Saint to
Vrushabhdeo of Bhagawati, Shree Shankaracharya
And called him an incarnation of Vamdeoiji.
He saw the Saint's blissful attitude
And realized his state of sainthood.
Shri Jathar then thought a moment
And decided not to charge him with any offence ... 17

Fire cannot be void of fiery element.
It needs restrictions as down in a store.
It may otherwise burn the house.
It can stand to no blame in such a case.
Likewise is the bareness of the Saint.
His disciples are guilty for his State,
Guilty of not draping him in a sheath of clothes ... 18

Shri Jathar ordered that basically
The Saint is a liberated soul.
His proper upkeep was Bhaskar's role.
He neglected his duty And was fined Rs. five as penalty.
Maharaj on hearing the order
Asked Bhaskar to desist from doing things
Against his will in future ... 19

Devotees decided to avoid train journey for the Saint
And arranged to get a bullock cart for him instead.
Once he came to Akola at Bapurao's place.
A Muslim saint Mehtabshah of Kurum
Was keen on meeting the saint.
He stayed at Kurum in Murtizapur taluka
And had requested Bapurao to call him
During the Saint's next visit ... 20

Bapurao sent a messenger to get Mehtabshah.
At this time he had already started for the Akola station.
The messenger met him on the way
Mehtab asked him to get in the cart on the road.
Look how a saint knows the mind of the other saint.
They indeed are omnipotent.
With him Mehtabshah had a few devotees.
They all shared Bapurao's facilities ... 21

Shree Gajanan came to Mehtab's room next morning.
Pulling his hair he gave Mehtab a good beating.
This was to make him understand
That roughness of people of his religion
Was a hindrance in his self realization.

Maharaj wanted Mehtabshah to stay away from malice
To justify his name in life.
Maharaj by thrashing him hinted that he wasn't free from it
... 22

Saints understand each other's minds.
Mehtab was happy to get a hint.
When Mehtab was getting the beating
His devotees got agitated.
Mehtabshah asked them to keep quiet
And go back to Kurum in their interest.
Except Shaikh Kadu all others left.
Seth Bachchulal invited the Saint for meals the next day ... 23

On reaching his place Maharaj
Did not descend from the buggy
And asked the driver to take it back.
Everyone was surprised at this action
As he had already accepted the invitation.
Someone suggested
That it may be because Mehtab was not invited.
So they went and invited Mehetab ... 24

They arrived in the same buggy to Bachchulal's house.
The saint shifted from the temple to the theater
To be with Mehtabshah who stayed there.
After the meals Mehatabshah told his disciples
To get him a ticket to Punjab as he desired to go there.
Shaikh Kadu said, 'The mosque at Kurum is half built.
You may go when the construction is complete.'
Mehtabshah's reply was unique ... 25

Mehatab said, 'I got orders from Maharaj
For going back to Punjab, I have thus to proceed
The construction of the mosque will be completed
With the grace of Shree Gajanan
Saints do not believe in difference of religion.
To them all are equal. Any extra importance
To mosque and religion will harm your persistence ...26

Temples and mosques are built of same material.
To fight for their different shapes is unreasonable.
Do you mean to say that Muslims belong to God
And the Hindus are phantoms?
Think wisely in the interest of humanity.
Both religions are created by the same divinity.
One should love his own religion
But also respect another's religious convictions ... 27

Peace and happiness will recede
If you do not think this way.
Now you will go back to Punjab.
The mosque will be built by Gajanan Maharaj.'
Mehtabshah went away never to return.
Both Hindus and Muslims should respect his words.
Though the saint thrashed Mehtabshah
There was love in his heart ... 28

Maharaj didn't take his meals without Mehtab,
A clear indication that there was no malice at all.
At Bapurao's place his wife suffered a queer spell.
It was Bhanamati, a strange happening as they seem to be.
At one moment she would get kunku on her forehead
At the next a rope around her neck.
At times her clothes would glow with fire
And dark scars on her back appear ... 29

Her clothes spread for drying would catch fire.
Her health was failing
With such mysterious and bewildering happenings.
She lost her taste for food
Resulting in her becoming very weak.
Bapurao spent a lot to cure the ill.
With no results at last he surrendered to Maharaj.
He addressed the saint with folded hands, ... 30

'Maharaj, my wife is suffering from Bhanamati.
I have tried my best to cure her from this malady.
My efforts have failed miserably.

How can Bhanamati enter where you are present?
How can a fox come and howl in a lion's den?
How can a stench exist where musk prevails?"
Hearing this Maharaj glanced at Bapu's wife
And the illness vanished the next moment from her life
...31

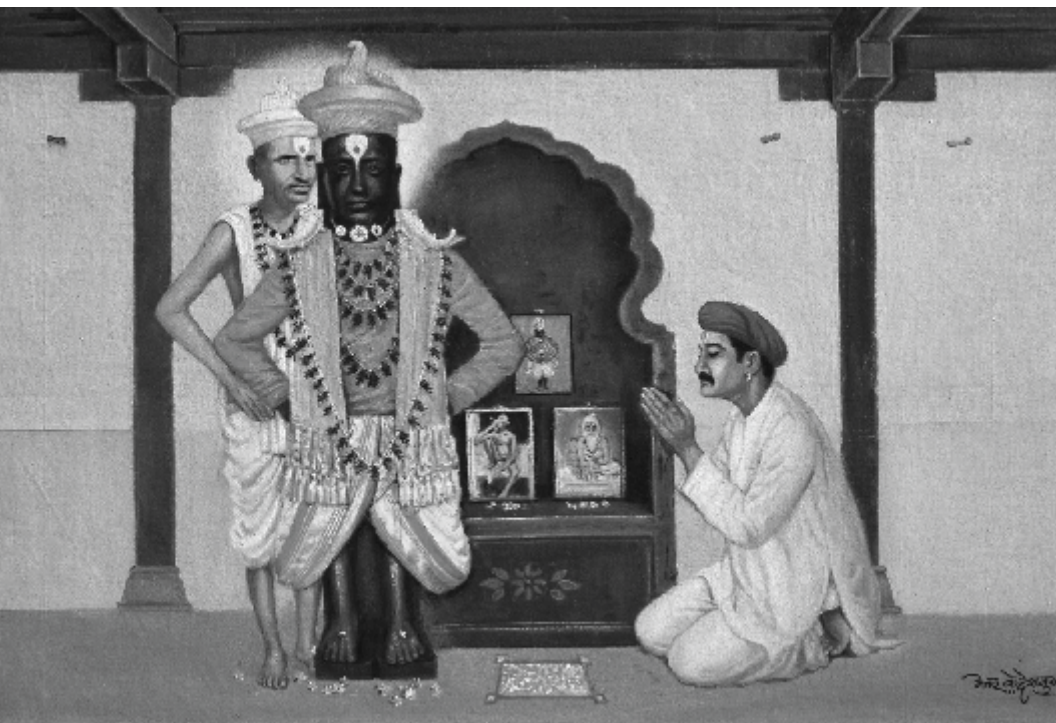
Once in his wanderings Maharaj reached Akot
To meet Narasingji, his brother saint.
There was a well near the monastery.
Maharaj sat on the parapet with legs hanging inside loosely.
He was constantly looking inside.
People watching him looked surprised.
Narsingji asked him the reason for this.
To which the saint replied, ... 32

'I see Godavari, Bhagirathi and Yamuna in the well.
I want to find out which others dwell.
You get their waters for bath every day
Why should I be denied the pleasure any way?
These rivers must come out and give me a bath today
Or else I am not leaving this place, think as you may.'
People who heard him thought he was crazy.
For the possibility was hazy ... 33

But the well water gushed out in a moment
Like a fountain it poured down on the saint.
He called upon the people to join the bath
In the holy waters of Ganga, Yamuna and Godavari
And many other rivers all across.
Believers joined him in enjoying the shower.
The fountain then subsided to the water's original level.
Saint returned to Shegaon after meeting Narsingji Maharaj
... 34

May this treatise
Bring happiness to the Devotees

Chapter Eighteen



Saints recognize the plight of the unfortunate.
Lucky are those who get a chance to be near.
Maharaj said, 'Bapuna, don't worry.
I will just now show you
Rukmini Raman Pandurang Hari.'
Saying so Maharaj stood up
And positioned his feet like Vitthal
With hands on the waist like the idol

Chapter 18

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to the divinity which showers joyous tidings.
Govind, Shriniwas, embodiment of all blessings.
Hope of the down trodden, save me O Keshav'
Keshimardan, Madhav, Madhusudan
O killer of Putna. Pandurang, consort of Rukhmini,
I need not say what I want from thee.
Scripts say you fulfill desires of devotees.
I beseech you to grant my wishes and be kind to me ...1

A devotee from Mundgaon near Akot, named Baijabai
Was the daughter of Bhulabai and Shivram Mali.
She was married in her childhood early.
Everything happens as per one's destiny.
When Baijabai came of age
Her father took her to his son in law's place.
But it had no significance
As Baijabai's husband was not potent ... 2

Parents of Baijabai were deeply affected.
Bhulabai, her mother even suggested
That Baijabai be married to another person.
Shivaram, the father did not concur.
He said masculinity sometimes comes late.
So they decided to wait
And let Baija be at her husband's place
Expecting that medicines may help ... 3

Both of them returned to their village.
Baija who was sixteen year of age,
With her honey toned complexion
She presented a youthful image.
Endowed with her beautiful eyes, a Sharp nose and a tall
figure
She enjoyed the power to attract the attention
Of any person ... 4

Her elder brother in law was enchanted by her splendor
And earnestly desired to make love to her.
He tried many ways of persuasion
Even a promise to treat her as his wife.
His attempts to seduce her were wasted.
Burdened by this torture, she prayed,
'O God why am I subject to such conflict?
When I have worshipped you from my childhood ... 5

My devotion got me no fruit.
The person I married has no manhood.
I know my fate in a way it is great.
Now I can entirely concentrate
And devote myself to your feet
Now my only request is
That no other man touches me.' ... 6

One night her brother in law came to her
To let her know of his evil intentions.
Baija turned down his overtures
By calling him a shameless creature.
She reminded him that a husband's elder brother
Has a relationship as good as a father.
His behavior thus should be as worthy as a father ... 7

But ignoring her remarks
He tried to grab her in his arms.
Suddenly he heard a thudding sound
Of his elder son falling to the ground.
He fell from the first floor to the base

Causing a great wound on his forehead.
Baija picked up the child in her lap
And dressed his wound with a medicinal wrap ... 8

Baija told her brother in law to learn a lesson
And not covet other women with passion.
Looking at the condition of his son
He regretted his shabby action
And did not bother Baija thereafter.
Shivram took her back to Mundgaon.
Her mother suggested that they go to Shegaon
And ask Gajanan the future of her daughter ... 9

So they all went to Shegaon.
Prostrating before Maharaj.
The parents requested the saint
To bless Baija to have an infant.
Maharaj smiled and replied
'She is not destined to have a child.
All men in the world are like father to her.
Better forget she is married any more.' ... 10

Shivram was sorry to hear this from Maharaj.
Soon they all returned to Mundgaon.
Baija was happy to know of what was in store for her.
With this visit she became the Saint's resolute follower.
Baija started visiting Shegaon
With Pundalik, a disciple from Mundgaon.
Her parents did not object to these trips.
They hoped this may bring back her marital bliss ... 11

They cherished a faint hope in their minds
That Baija's man would become potent by the blessings.
But her visits to Shegaon with Pundalik
Germinated doubts in the minds of the public.
People even started spreading rumors
That under the garb of religious excursions
Baija and Pundalik were enjoying physical satisfaction.
They openly pointed out the caste diversity ... 12

Pundalik was Maratha and Baija was of Mali community.
A great hue and cry was raised to break their attachment.
But both of them were pure at heart.
Bhulabai scolded Baija for this association
Saying that young men and women come together
For nothing else but physical satisfaction..
She even advised Shivram
To get her a husband from their clan ... 13

Bhulabai took Baija to Gajanan Maharaj
To find out the reason for the association.
She believed that saints knew every thing
And when asked they would tell.
Maharaj was like sandalwood
Which will never emit a bad smell.
Pundalik, Baija, Bhulabai and Shivram
They all went together to Shegaon ... 14

Maharaj looked at Pundalik and said with a smile,
Pundalik, Baija was your sister in your previous life.
Don't deny her affection
Even if it attracts public condemnation.
You both together worship God.
Bhulabai, you should not obstruct that.
She is the sister of Pundalik not his wife
She is not destined to have a husband this life ... 15

She will ever remain a maid like Janabai of Pandharpur.
Who got Namdev as her guru.
Like that Baija is one among the few.
She has surrendered to me.
From now on she is my Janabai.'
Hearing these words Shivram was overwhelmed
He could not speak a word after all that was said ... 16

Next day they returned to Mundgaon with Baija
No one thereafter objected to her visits to Shegaon.
Everytime Pundalik was her escort.
No one ever bothered about that.

The Saint's kindness abundant
Stopped the criticism around ... 17

Here is a tale how Maharaj always
Protects his devotees from dreadful spells.
Doctor Bhau Rajaram Kavar
Was in charge of Khamgaon Hospital.
He got a nasty boil on his body
Eminent doctors were brought from Amravati,
Akola and Buldana cities
To treat this discomfoting malady ... 18

All efforts with medicines, even surgery
Failed to bring relief to the state.
Bhau was restless lying in the bed
Due to unbearable pain.
His elder brother was concerned
Over Bhau's discomfort.
There was no alternative left at all
Except remembering Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 19

Thinking so they folded their hands
And prayed to Shree Gajanan Maharaj
To come to his rescue and cure him of the pain.
It was midnight and pitch darkness covered the sky
With foxes howling nearby
When a hooded cart drawn by two bullocks
Came to the doctor's door by luck ... 20

A Brahmin from the cart came and knocked at the door.
The elder brother opened it asking the purpose of the
stopover.
The Brahmin said he was 'Gaja' and he came from Shegaon
He said he has brought 'Tirtha' and 'Angara' for Bhau Kavar.
He advised to apply angara to the boil and let Bhau sip
the tirtha awhile.
He left the things with the brother and went away
Saying that he had no time to stay.
Hearing this Bhau sent a man to call back the person ... 21

He could not be traced nor the bullock cart.
They could not be found as they disappeared fast.
Bhau applied angara to the boil
Which immediately burst throwing out the infection.
The fluid oozed out within an hour
Bringing sound sleep to Bhau Rajaram Kavar.
Subsequently he was completely cured
And went to Shegaon to see the seer ... 22

Smiling at Bhau, Maharaj said, 'Look up,
That night you did not even give grass to my bullocks.'
Bhau understood that the visitor that night was Maharaj.
As a token of his gratitude he fed the people of Shegaon.
Once Maharaj left for Pandharpur
To visit God Vitthal on the banks of Chadrabhaga river.
Many devotees accompanied him.
Special trains for Pandharpur were scheduled ... 23

This was for a comfortable travel of the crowd.
The occasion was Ashadhi Ekadasi.
First stop on the journey was at Nagzari.
Jagu Aba, Patil, Bapuna Kale and many more
Were with Maharaj on this tour.
There is an underground cave at Nagzari.
Where springs of natural water flow freely
Yielding a name to the place as Nagzari ... 24

The great Saint Gomaji Maharaj
Had attained communion with God
At this venerable spot.
He was the first guru of Mahadaji Patil
Who got blessings of this Divinity
For welfare and prosperity of the Patil dynasty.
That is why the Patils of Shegaon
Visit Nagzari before they move on ... 25

They pay respects to Gomaji
Before they proceed by train as Varkari
To the holy city of Pandharpur.

With Maharaj on this tour were Bapuna and fifty others.
It was the ninth day of Ashadh in the waxing moon
And thousands of devotees started reaching Pandharpur
Under a cloudy sky drizzling but with no down pour ... 26

Pandharpur appeared like heaven on earth
With a sea of humanity in its girth.
Every inch of space meant for going round the temple
Was jammed with Varkaris
Chanting, 'Jai Jai Ramkrishna Hari.'
The entire atmosphere was charged with devotion
When palanquins of various saints came in procession.
They were of Nath, Nivruti, Dnyaneshwar and Janardan
... 27

Also were there Savata, Gora Kumbhar,
Sopan, Muktabai and Shree Tukaram Dehukar.
Devotees threw up 'bukka' in the air
To offer respects to them at the festival.
The sky was filled with bukka powder
Spreading its fragrance all over.
They threw Tulsi leaves and flowers
On the palanquins in that festive atmosphere ... 28

When Maharaj reached Pandharpur
He stayed at Kukaji Patil's house
Which stands on the pradakshina route.
A huge crowd gathered around the temple.
With Police force protecting law and order.
On the day of the festival
With Hari Patil all Shegaon people,
Except Bapuna, went to the temple ... 29

Bapuna was taking bath and thus was held back.
When his bath was over
He learnt that everyone had gone to the temple.
He hurried to join them there with the crowd around
He could not reach anywhere near.
Helplessly he offered God a prayer, ... 30

'O Vitthal, Rishikesh, why are you displeased with me?
Why don't you allow me to enjoy your blessing
You went to 'Aran' to give darshan to Savata Mali
Panduranga, come from the temple to meet me.
Aran was sixteen miles away. I am just at your gate.
People call you helper of the helpless
Then why are you ignoring me?' ... 31

Thus he prayed and at last disappointed
Returned to Kukaji's establishment.
He had no food and the despondent mood
Made him look pale and sunken.
So intense was his desire to see Vitthal
That his mind hovered over the temple.
People jeered at him calling him the unfortunate example
... 32

They teased him saying,
'You came here to visit the stalls and not see the idol.
Some said he was a hypocrite
Not an unfortunate at all.
Others taunted that he knew Vedant well
And needed not to visit the temple.'
For Vedantees, God is in their hearts not idols ... 33

They believe that only fools go to the temple.
People ridiculed him saying,
'His God for him stands on the street.
'Then why did he come here at all?
He should have called Vitthal to Shegaon.
These Vedantees advice others
Without a fragment of experience.
They preach without practice ... 34

They do not understand that self realization
Is possible only by worshipping the visible.
How can one attain adulthood
Without experiencing childhood?
Bapuna received such criticism.

No one protected him from this sarcasm.
He sat quiet without taking any food.
Maharaj watching the events and understood his mood ...
35

Saints recognize the plight of the unfortunate.
Lucky are those who get a chance to be near.
Maharaj said, 'Bapuna, don't worry.
I will just now show you
Rukmini Raman Pandurang Hari.'
Saying so Maharaj stood up
And positioned his feet like Vitthal
With hands on the waist like the idol ... 36

Bapuna saw him in this form
With garlands of Tulsi and flowers around his neck.
Bapuna prostrated himself in front of this image.
When he looked up it was Maharaj again.
He was happy at this darshan of the Deity.
When he went to the temple subsequently
He saw the same idol in that position
As was shown by Maharaj in Kukaji's residence ... 37

When people came to know of this incident
They requested Maharaj to bless them with the same
darshan.
Maharaj replied, 'Like Bapuna mould your mind.
The darshan is not an ordinary kind
Like a commodity at the market place
It requires an attitude of pious bend,
Just as seen in Bapuna's case,
To get a darshan of such a consequence ... 38

Maharaj revealed Vithoba to Bapuna
Because he was a real saint.
There is no difference between a saint and God.
It is like sugar and the sweet taste,
One cannot be separated from the other.
After sharing Prasad they returned to Shegaon.

With the blessings of Vithoba, Bapuna got a son
Who grew up to be an intelligent person ... 39

Services to saints never go waste.
Bapuna's son was named as Namdeo
As he came with the blessings of Vithoba Dev.
A devotee from Kavathe Bahadur of Vidharbha
Had also lodged himself at Kukaji's wada.
On the next day of the Ekadashi fare
Cholera gripped Pandharpur with a flare.
Thousands of people were dying there ... 40

The Police authorities asked people to leave the sacred town.
Doctors too said they should move out soon.
The authority even drove them out as a precaution.
The villager of Kavathe Bahadur caught the infection.
He suffered from vomiting and loose motions.
His vigor was lost and he became weak.
No one gave him any medicine
Nor did they inform doctors for fear of police ... 41

Everyone left, abandoning him to the fate of death.
When you flourish people are your friends.
Adversity brings dire desertion.
This always has been the general equation.
God and Saints come to help in such a situation.
Looking to the devotee lying helpless
Maharaj asked people to take him with them.
'He is nearly dead.' They said ... 42

'We too will face difficulty.
In our entourage we are fifty.
Cholera is spreading like wild fire in the city.
Under the circumstances we leave for our own safety.
We cannot stay here even for a day.
Let us leave this place immediately.'
Maharaj said, 'It is foolish of the tour band
To abandon a sick brother from your land.' ... 43

He went out and caught the hand of the devotee,
Helped him to sit up and said with certainty,
'Come with me. To Vidharbha we go.'
The devotee moaned, 'I cannot even move.
I am on death bed with no relations now.'
Maharaj assured, 'Don't get scared,
The danger to your life is now over.'
Saying so he put his hand on the devotee's head ... 44

His symptoms vanished with that touch.
He felt strong and stood up.
How can death take away a person
When he is in the shadow of saint's protection?
He recovered within an hour
And joined his people on the return tour.
Rescued from fear of death and all that pain
He prostrated before Maharaj again and again ... 45

The devotee from Kavathe Bahadur remarked,
'Swamiji, you brought me back.
I was 'in the jaws of death.'
He cheered to the glory of the saint again.
All devotees in Pandharpur entourage
With Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Returned safe to the town of Shegaon.
They had Saint Gajanan as their escort ... 46

An orthodox Brahmin once came to Shegaon
For the darshan of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He heard of the greatness of the saint
And arrived there from a far off place.
Being a very orthodox person
He did not tolerate being touched by any one.
After looking at Maharaj he regretted
To have come all the way to see this saint ... 47

He branded Maharaj as a crazy person.
Behaving contrary to established traditions.
He did not appreciate people worshipping such a deviation

He saw a dog lying dead on the way to the well
And did not go further muttering to himself,
'No one removes the dead dog from here.
They are all Ganja smokers.
I am a fool to have travelled here,' ... 48

Maharaj heard this and to the Brahmin he said,
'Don't harbour any doubts. The dog is not dead.
Go, perform your worship as you desire.'
The Brahmin retorted, 'I am not crazy like you Sir!
The dog is dead lying here for an hour.
No one removed it. No one cares!'
Maharaj said, 'We are ignorant and spoiled
We don't possess wisdom so bright ... 49

Follow me to the well with your pitcher.'
With his feet he touched the dog lying there.
It stood up and took to its heels.
The Brahmin was spell-bound indeed
He fell prostrate at Maharaj's feet
And begged pardon for his misdeeds.
He served food to the devotees that day.
After taking Prasad he went away ... 50

We hope this treatise
Will bring happiness to all devotees.