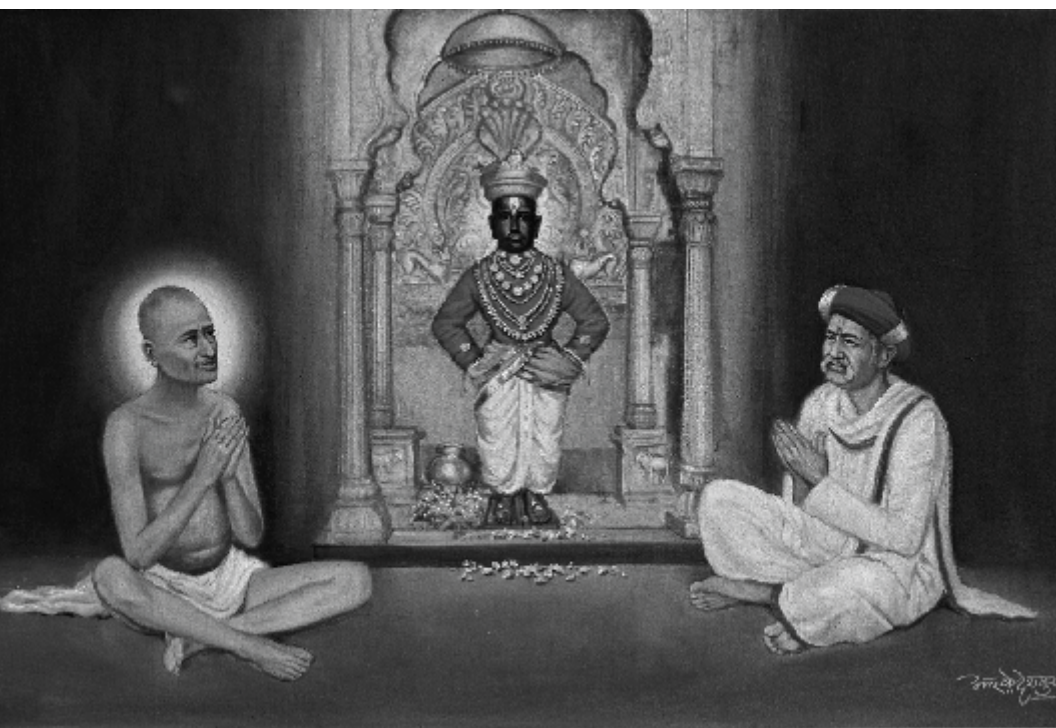


Chapter Nineteen



'O protector of all devotees
All powerful, consort of Rukmini,
Please listen to my appeal. As per your command
I have lived in this world
Fulfilling desires of devotees.
You know my mission is now over.
I seek your permission to go away from here
I wish to stay at your feet at Vaikunth
In the ensuing month of Bhadrapad.'
Thus saying Maharaj folded his hands.
Tears rolled from his eyes

Chapter 19

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to Thee who doles out joy
Jai to thy impermeable form
Let my devotion remain at your feet
With no discrimination of any sort.
O Raghupati, come and bless me.
Great ones like you should never be harsh.
O Ananta, give me a chance to express my part.
O Jagganath, Don't fail me in my efforts ... 1

When Shree Maharaj was at Shegaon
A Brahmin Kashinath Khanderao Garde
Came to the town for his darshan.
He prostrated before the Maharaj
And was happy to see him as a liberated person.
Kashinath's father had described him so at Khamgaon.
He felt fortunate to come and see him at Shegaon.
While he was thinking so Maharaj pushed him with his
elbow ... 2

With this push Maharaj said,
'Go home your desire is fulfilled.
A postman is waiting for you at the door
He has a telegram for you to read.'
Kashinath was confused and couldn't comprehend
The meaning of what the Maharaj said
As he had not come to ask for anything
Nor could he ask Maharaj about the meaning ... 3

He bowed down to the saint with folded hands
And returned to his place Khamgaon.
A postman was really waiting at the entrance
With a telegram addressed to him.
He read the message within an instant.
It said he was promoted as Munsif
And was posted at Morshi office
This made him understand the saint's elbow nick ... 4

Once Maharaj went to Nagpur city
On an invitation of Shree Buti.
Nagpur was the capital of Bhosale's kingdom
But had now lost all its grandeur.
This was because of losing freedom
Which turned an owner into a begger
And bestowed greatness on foreigners.
Elephants and horses were replaced by motors ... 5

Changing times have such an effect
And for this no one is to be blamed.
Shree Gopal Buti's residence was in Sitabardi
And Maharaj was housed in a palatial building.
This was like enclosing a tiger
In a fortified place away from strangers.
Shree Gopal Buti's intention
Was to keep Maharaj at Nagpur forever ... 6

For Shegaon people he appeared as Akrur
Taking away Shreekrishna to Mathura.
Shegaon became a deserted place.
They asked Hari Patil to arbitrate.
'Please bring him back to Shegoan.' They said,
'Without him our town looks dead.
You are the head here and he is a rich man.
You giants can fight like elephants.' ... 7

It takes an elephant to fight an elephant
Not a puny fox from the crowd.
Maruti was selected to face Jambu Mali

And Arjun with Karna in the bouts.
They requested Hari to go to Nagpur
And get the Saint back to Shegaon soon.
In fact the Saint stayed reluctantly at Nagpur
Like God Shreekrishna at Hastinapur ... 8

Maharaj repeatedly asked Buti to let him go.
Buty ignored the requests
Dissuading him from doing so.
Though Buty was a pious and decent person
He was also proud of his possessions.
He called scores of people to dine with the saint
And participate in devotional songs
Throughout the day ... 9

But he did not allow Shegaon people to visit Maharaj.
Guests who came to take him were turned back.
Now it was Hari Patil's turn.
The great devotee boarded the train
Along with some selected friends
On his journey to Nagpur city
To bring back the beloved Saint ... 10

Simultaneously Maharaj at Nagpur said,
'O Gopal, let me go away from here
Before Hari Patil reaches Nagpur.
All peace here will be lost soon.
You do possess lot of wealth
But he has executive power and strength.
Hari arrived at Nagpur and entered Buty's house by force
Pushing away watchmen at the gate, of course ... 11

At this time a big feast was in the offing
With many Brahmins squatting on sesam plank seats
With silver plates and bowls and good food to eat.
Maharaj was sitting in the center on a decorated seat.
Such was Buti's wealthy décor
He was called the Kuber of Nagpur.

Maharaj rushed to the door when he saw Hari Patil
Like a cow running to her calf after a long parting ... 12

He said, 'O Hari let us go back to Shegaon.
I don't want to stay here any longer.
It is good that you have come.'
So saying he started walking out of there.
Gopal rushed forward and caught his feet
Saying, 'Maharaj, don't go before you eat.
Kindly oblige me by taking your meals
And then you may go where ever you like.' ... 13

Then he said to Hari Patil, 'Please give this a pause.
Join us in taking Prasad with Shree Maharaj.
I understand that he wants to go back at all cost.
I request you to save my prestige in front of the Brahmins.
If Maharaj does not eat any food
They will also leave.
It will be a matter of shame for me
So please join the feast before you go.' ... 14

Hari Patil agreed to this.
Maharaj and devotees took their meals.
A lot of people gathered to take the Saint's darshan.
Janakibai, wife of Gopal Buti
Goddess of the household, was a very pious lady.
She bowed to Maharaj's feet
And said her wish remained unfulfilled ... 15

Maharaj understood what she said
And applied kunku to her forehead.
He blessed, 'You will get one more son
Who will be very victorious.
You will attain salvation during the time of your husband.'
Saying thus Maharaj left
For Raghuji Raje Bhosale's place ... 16

Raghuji Raje was pious and noble.
He was a person most liberal

And an ardent devotee of Shree Ram.
His assets were blessings of Maharaj
Though he had lost his kingdom large.
Then he went to Ramtek.
After taking darshan of Shree Ram
With Hari he returned to Shegaon ... 17

Swami Shree Ranganath
A great saint of Dhar Kalyan
Came to meet Gajanan Maharaj
They exchanged notes in their own way
Not decipherable in a simple way.
Shree Vasudevanand Saraswati, born at Mangaon
Came to visit the Saint at Shegaon ... 18

He lived on the banks of Krishna River
And believed in ritualistic form of prayer.
When he was to come to Shegaon
Maharaj called Balabhau and said,
'One of my brothers is coming tomorrow.
Be sure he is properly respected.
He is very orthodox. See that the premises are clean
No dirty pieces of cloth should be seen ... 19

If he sees any, He will be annoyed like Jamadagni.
That Karhada Brahmin is always clean.
He is a learned man of discipline.
He will never compromise
On the right procedure of religious rites.'
So said Maharaj a day previous to the visit.
Swami arrived at Shegaon at the right minute ... 20

They looked at each other and smiled
Both appeared immensely happy.
One was a believer in Karma
And the other was in Yoga.
One was like the sweet fragrance of Jasmine
The other was that of rose sublime.

One was like the sacred Ganges
The other like Godavari River of sages ... 21

One was the incarnation of Shiva
The other Vishnu resting on the king of Serpents.
When Swamiji came into the chamber
Maharaj was sitting on his cot
Snapping his thumb with fingers.
The snapping stopped when he arrived.
The two saints looked at each other.
Then Swami sought permission to depart from there ... 22

Balabhau was surprised.
He desired his doubts to be clarified.
He said, 'You two have different ways.
Yet you called him your brother. It is strange.'
Maharaj appreciated Bala's question.
'There are three paths to reach the Omniscient.
They all take you to the same destination,
The final point of self realization ... 23

They appear different and confuse the onlooker.
'Karma Marg' emphasises on cleanliness and silken ware,
Sacredness of human touch and worship thrice a day.
Fasting and rituals in a disciplined way.
One who goes this way is a real orthodox.
Any omission deprives him of the 'Karm Marg'.
He has got to be careful on his course.
He shouldn't hurt others even by words ... 24

'Bhakti Marg's stress is on devotional prayer.
Here the mind has to be crystal clear.
Even a shadow of an unclean thought
Will deprive the person of what is sought.
Compassion, love and modesty
Must rule the heart of the devotee.
He must have faith in scriptures and worship
And continuously have the name of God on his lips ... 25

These are the requirements of Bhakti Marg.
One who acquires them can meet God.
This is the easiest way of self realization.
But practicing it is harder than the Karma Marg direction.
Like the sky posing an illusion
Of being nearer to the viewer.
The spread out of 'Yoga Marg' is bigger than these.
It lies in the mind of the practitioner ... 26

A person following the Yoga Marg
Requires no external methods.
Whatever is in the universe around
Can be found in his inventory.
He travels the path of Yoga
With all these things inside
Yet he has to know the methods
Regularly required in the series ... 27

Asan, Rechak, Kumbhak,
Knowledge of Ida and Pingala veins,
Dhouti and Mudra Tratak,
The Yogi should know for his success.
Knowledge of Kundalini and Sushumna
Should show him the right path.
This will lead him to knowledge of self
Yet it has to include love for all ... 28

Any action without love is a waste.
It is thus essential to preserve the 'love aspect'
On all the three self realization trails.
Color of the skin, tall, short, beautiful and ugly
Are just attributes of the body.
They have no effect on the soul.
Everyone looks different
But has a soul in the same mould ... 29

The same thing can be said of the three paths.
They look different but have the same target.

This disparity is totally forgotten
When they finally attain their object.
The path one follows is important to him.
Those who fail, brag about superiority of their trail.
Those who succeed become saints ... 30

Once they reach such a spot
They merge in as one as a supreme thought.
Vasistha, Vamadev, Jamadgni,
Atri, Parashar, Shandilya Muni
Travelled the Karma Marg with great dignity.
Vyas, Narad, Kayadhukumar,
Maruti, Shabari, Akrur, ... 31

Uddhav, Sudama, Parth and Vidur
Took Bhakti Marg as their round.
Shree Shankaracharya Guruvar,
Machichindra, Gorakh, Jalandar
Touched self realization
By following Yoga Marg tradition.
Vasishtha, Vidur and Machchindra
Each type got the same fruit of salvation ... 32

The tradition rolled on. Don't ever doubt it.
Shreepad Vallabh and Narasinha Saraswati
From Ganagapur Audumberwadi
Protected the Karma Marg practice.
Namdev, Savata, Dnyaneshwar,
Kanhua, Chokha Mahar, Damajipant Thanedar
Took Bhakti Marg, path of devotion ... 33

Shaikh Mahammad of Shrigonda,
Anandi Swami of Jalna, Surji Anjangaon's Devnath
Were all followers of Yoga Marg.
Presently Vasudev has Karma Marg
And I go by Bhakti Marg,
Like many others on the devotional trail
Like Dhondibuva of Palus ... 34

Sant Nana of Sonagir, Yashvantrao of Jalna
Khalla Amma, committed to Almighty,
Shree Saibaba of Shirdi,
Gulabrao with intellectual insight,
Sant Adakuji of Varkhed in Chandur taluka.
Sant Zingraji of Murha, Nagpur's Tajuddin Baba.
Though their ways were different
They commanded a saintly status ... 35

We, all brothers have come to this earth
To show to the devotees
The right path to know the Divinity.
Each one will take the path of his choice
And will ultimately rejoice
And find salvation at the feet of Almighty.
Now, Balabhau don't ask me further
Nor tell of this dialog to others ... 36

Let me sit here quietly under the garb of being crazy.
Those who have faith in me and have my love
Will see the fulfillment of their desires.
I don't need the others.
Knowledge about the supreme reality
Is to be imparted to those who are eager to study
And not to non believers' and the scornful ... 37

We have to be steadfast on our path
To walk towards the Omnipotent God.'
Tears rolled from Balabhau's eyes
When he heard the sublime advice.
He was overwhelmed with love.
His body shivered with extreme bliss
Beyond all words to describe.
He bowed to the saint bent on saving the oppressed ... 38

Among his other devotees was Salubai.
Once Maharaj said to her, 'Take flour and pulses
And cook day and night for the devotees.
Go on feeding all those who come here.

You will be dearer to God Narayan.
Salubai of Vizapur observed the routine.
She is still alive in Shegaon town ... 39

One Pralhadbua Joshi had an opportunity
Of being blessed by Maharaj but lost it unfortunately.
There was one Tulsiram at Jalamb near Khamgaon.
He had an intelligent son named Atmaram.
Because of his special liking for Veda scripts
He went to Kashi for further analysis.
A bath in Ganges, food from alms,
Studying with guru was his daily program ... 40

Today's students are different.
They waste their time in entertainment.
There is no chance of learning
With this type of predisposition.
Atmaram had his own identity.
He was aware of his responsibility.
On return from his studies he went to Shegaon
To pay respects to Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 41

Atmaram had learnt the Vedas' diction
But Maharaj was the sun of all comprehension.
He recited the script alongwith Atmaram
And corrected him where he was wrong.
It was a surprise for everyone in the assembly
To see the saint recite Vedas so fluently.
How can a honey bee ever be
Away from the source of honey? ... 42

Atmaram used to come to Shegaon from Jalamb
And offer his services to the sacred mission.
So much was his devotion that after Maharaj's sojourn
Atmaram looked after his memorial.
He never accepted any remuneration
For his selfless devotion.
On the contrary offered a donation ... 43

He gave up his property, house and land
To the temple trust's command.
Never bothered about the amount.
It is the devotion that counts.
Shabari achieved the grace of Shree Ram
By offering berries from the farm.
Atmaram's humble donation
Brought him the same results ... 44

Dattatray Kedar, Narayan Jamkar
And Dudhahari Bua who lived on milk simply
Were sincere devotees of the saint only.
Maruti Patwari of Morgaon Bhakre in Balapur Tahasil
Had Timaji Mali in his service.
Timaji's job was to guard the crops
In the Patwari's fields ... 45

One night Timaji fell asleep
On the heap of grains in the field.
Some donkeys entered the premises
And started gobbling from the heap.
As Maruti was a devotee of Maharaj
The Saint had to rush to the field
To save the precious yield.
He called Timaji to wake up from sleep ... 46

Timaji woke up to see
Maharaj disappearing from the scene.
He saw the donkeys and drove them away
But thought of Maruti's wrath at the break of the day.
He realized that he had betrayed the boss.
Nearly half of the heap was already gone.
Timaji had a great sense of responsibility.
There was no excuse for negligence of duty ... 47

As against this present day servants
Do not care for the interest of the master
And are dishonest and arrogant.
Timaji was not of that class.

He was unhappy over the loss.
He could not find reasons to excuse himself
He decided to own responsibility of the loss
And beg pardon from the boss ... 48

Though in his mind he was sure
That Maruti will forgive him for his behavior.
He thus went to Maruti and humbly touched his feet.
He said, 'My sleep has put you to loss.
While I slept the donkeys consumed the half.
Please come to estimate the damage
And relieve me of my anxiety Saint! ... 49

Maruti said he had no time to inspect the field.
He was going to Shegaon for his darshan routine.
However on his return he would visit the scene.
When Maruti reached Maharaj in the morning
The Saint was sitting with Jagu Patil and Balabhau near
him.
Maharaj smiled mildly and said,
'I had lot of trouble last night.
As a devotee you have used me as watchman at sight ... 50

You employ lazy servants and sleep comfortably.
At night the donkeys devoured your grain stealthily.
So I went and woke up Timaji.
I asked him to watch the stock and came back.'
Maruti was quick enough to understand.
He bowed down to the saint and said,
'You are our sole supporter.
Responsibility of a child is on the mother ... 51

Whatever we possess belongs to you.
You are in control of what we do.
The heap of grain is yours.
Just for name's sake Timaji was there.
You control the universe from here.
A mother tolerates trouble given by children.

I being a child, you rushed to Morgaon
To save me from incurring loss ... 52

I will go back and remove Timaji from service.'
Maharaj said, 'No, no, this is not justice.
He is honest and felt sorry for his lapse.
Did he not come to you to report the mishap?
He even suggested you to go to the field
To assess the loss in the yield.
You told him you are coming here
And go to the field after returning there.' ... 53

Maruti was overwhelmed by the limitless kindness
Of Shree Gajanan the Saint.
No one had spoken to him of donkeys entering the field.
Yet he knew everything that what happened in the night
By his inner vision ... 54

In Shake one thousand eight hundred and sixteen
An incident occurred in Balapur city.
Maharaj was sitting in the verandah
Of the house of Sukhlal Bansilal.
He was bare bodied one hundred percent.
Passersby paid respect to the saint.
A police constable happened to go in that street.
His name was Narayan Asaraji ... 55

He lost his temper looking at Maharaj
And said the man was a hypocrite.
He is sitting naked intentionally
And this should not be tolerated kindly.
He poured abuses on the saint.
Not satisfied he beat him with a cane.
In spite of the cane marks on the body
Asaraji went on hitting him badly ... 56

A shopkeeper named Hundiwala intervened and said,
'It is not proper to beat a saint.
You have no reason to act in this manner.

God is the protector of saints on this earth.
Look at the cane marks on his body
And put an end to this absurdity.
This way you are inviting your own death
Like a sick man ignoring rules of good health ... 57

You are doing the same by hitting a pious man
It is not still late to beg pardon from Maharaj.'
The Havaladar said, 'There is no reason
For me to beg his pardon.
A curse from a crow won't kill animals.
This naked man on main road side
Is uttering filthy words.
To brand me wrong is simple injustice.' ... 58

The prophecy proved to be true.
The Havaladar and his relatives
Died in a fortnight without any clue.
Thus each one has to be cautious
In rating people around us
To determine their credentials,
Hypocrites or saints!
As it happened in Havaladar's case ... 59

In the district of Nagar
A small but beautiful town of Sangamner
Is situated on the banks of Pravara River.
The famous poet named Anant Phandi
Came from this small town only.
A man named Hari Jakhadi lived here.
He was a Yajurvedi Brahmin poor
And moved from place to place for survival ... 60

In his travel he reached Shegaon
To have a darshan of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He saw thousands distributing Prasad
Celebrating fulfillment of what they asked,
With the blessings of Gajanan Maharaj.
Looking to all that he thought,

'It appears I may have to go back
Without getting the grace I want ... 61

It is because of my bad luck. My luck stands like a rock.
No vegetation even grass grows on such a surface.
I get food one day and know not the fate of next day.
Such has been the life so far.
No one will get me a bride. I am a pauper ... 62

O Swami Gajanan! Abode of happiness rife
I desire the pleasure of married life,
I would like to have a virtuous wife
To have a marital bond to rejoice.'
As Jakhade was engaged in these thoughts
Maharaj pondered in a different sort.
He spat on Jakhade and said, 'others want to get out
But this person wants to get into the mundane net.' ... 63

He looked at Hari Jakhadi and said,
'You will get everything you have desired,
A wife and a happy married life
With children and money on your side.
Now go home and enjoy your lot.
Don't ever forget the Almighty God.
Maharaj gave him money for marriage expenses.
He lived a happy life.
How can the grace of a saint go waste? ... 64

Once Shree Ramchandra Govind Nimonkar
With Vasudeo Bendre went to Mukhana River.
Which runs through the hills of Saihyadri
In the tahasil of Nashik at Igatpuri.
The woods there were lush green,
Fruit laden trees stooped bending,
Wild animals roaming without encumbrance.
Along the river ran a small stream ... 65

It flowed through a narrow valley
Called 'Kapildhara by many.

It is considered holy in countless ways.
People bathed therein on auspicious days.
Nimonkar was a Yoga scholar.
He desired to extend his knowledge further.
He enquired with ascetics at the place.
They all turned down his request ... 66

Disappointed by this he folded his hands
And implored God to show him the right man.
Suddenly he saw a person at Kapildhara
Who could teach him the ways of Yoga.
He had long arms reaching his knees
Who appeared to be a sage indeed.
This calm man with face so calm
Was sitting there in meditation for long ... 67

Nimonkar prostrated before him
And waited till evening for him to open his eyes.
The Yogi did not open eyes nor said anything
Throughout the day he didn't eat a thing.
Other ascetics returned with the approach of evening.
With folded hands Nimonkar begged knowledge from the
sage.
The sage gave him a chart and said,
'This hymn has sixteen words. Keep repeating them ... 68

You may learn Yoga by their strength.
Following Yoga Marg is difficult.
As you know an insect can't circle Himalayan region
Nor can a live sea shell climb Meru Mountain.
You may try Yoga by being a bachelor
And keeping your mind and body cleaner.
If you do it with all sincerity
You may learn some Asan without difficulty ... 69

Don't ask me any more questions. Take this Prasad.'
The sage gave him a red pebble and vanished.
The same yogi met Nimonkar
At Nashik by the Godavari River.

He ran to the Saint and caught his feet
And said, 'You seem to be fed up with me.
Last time we met you never gave your name
Or address of the place to meet ... 70

Maharaj said, 'The red pebble
I gave you tells my name.
This is from Narmada and indicates God Ganesh.
You couldn't guess it as it is hard to understand
My name is Gajanan and I am from Shegaon.
Come with me to the residence of Dhumal
Where we will discuss about Yoga in all.'
Thus saying Maharaj disappeared as he talked ... 71

Nimonkar went to Dhumal's place
Where he was happy to see Maharaj again.
He bowed to Maharaj in his mind
And told Dhumal happenings at Kapildhara and Nashik.
Dhumal was happy and praised the Saint.
Advised Nimonkar to worship the pebble every day.
And perform the Asans in a regular way ... 72

Tukaram Kokate of Shegaon
Faced the misfortune of losing his offspring
When it was born.
To Maharaj he promised a child
Out of those which survived.
By the grace of Maharaj
He got three children,
One of which was to be given to the Saint ... 73

Tukaram forgot about the promise
Because of his immense love for his offspring.
Narayan the eldest son got sick one day.
Medicines could not help him any way.
Tukaram remembered at this moment
The promise he had made to the saint.
Narayan survived and served the saint with grace
With a message to all to honor their promise ... 74

In the month of Ashadh
Maharaj and Hari Patil went to Pandharpur city
To meet Vitthal the supreme Almighty
God, addressed by many names
As Kalpataru, Kamalnabh and the all in all of saints,
Controller of the universe
And acclaimed by Vedas as protector of all ... 75

Consort of Rukmini, residing in saint's hearts
Compassionate and kind to devotees
From all parts and of all sorts.
Maharaj arrived at Pandharpur
And took bath in Chandrabhaga River.
Then he went to the temple to meet God Vitthal.
His prayer to Almighty was simple ... 76

'O protector of all devotees
All powerful, consort of Rukmini,
Please listen to my appeal.
As per your command
I have lived in this world, fulfilling desires of devotees.
You know my mission is now over.
I seek your permission to go away from here ... 77

I wish to stay at your feet at Vaikunth
In the ensuing month of Bhadrapad.'
Thus saying Maharaj folded his hands.
Tears rolled from his eyes at the thought
Of separation from Hari who befriended him a lot.
Hari Patil asked him with folded hands,
'Why these tears? Have I hurt you by any means?
Please tell me. I am perturbed at this scene. ... 78

The Saint replied, 'you will not understand it.
Even when I explain to you the reason.
It requires a deeper perception.
Do not harbor any tension.
I can only say that our association
Is now coming to an end.

Let us return to Shegaon this moment.
Prosperity will always rain on you and your descendants
... 79

Celebrations of return were over.
Hari Patil looked anxious however.
He told the people of what Maharaj said
Of his association coming to an end.
In the month of Shravan Maharaj got weak day by day.
At Ganesh Chaturthi in Bhadrapad here is what he said,
'Now all of you should come to the monastery
For the immersion of Ganapati ... 80

It is said in 'Ganesh Puran'
That an idol of Ganesh be made of earth on Chaturthi.
After worshipping and offering sweets
It should be immersed in water next day, Panchami.
That day is now here.
Celebrate it by immersing my body in water.
Don't weep at all and don't forget I will always be here
To protect and guide you forever and ever ... 81

I can never forget you.
'Throw away torn clothes and wear new.
Said Shreekrishna to Arjun in Geeta on the field.
To that advice I will now yield
And change my body as other saints did.
Maharaj spent Chaturthi in a happy mood
With Balabhau and devotees of the neighborhood.
Next day holding Balabhau's hand he said, ... 82

'Don't think I have left you, Keep up the devotion.
Never ever forget me
I am here only for your information.
Saying so the great Saint stopped his breath
And by pranayam pulled it up his head.
This was at the noon of Bhadrapad shuddh Panchami
Thursday, in Sadharan naam Samvatsar
Shake One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty Two ... 83

While holding up his breath he uttered, 'Jai Gajanan.'
And merged himself in supreme Brahma at Shegaon.
His movements stopped thereafter
Plunging the atmosphere in to sorrow and despair.
Very soon the sad news went round
Through the villages and towns.
People gathered in great haste.
They cried beating their chest ... 84

'Gone is our living God. He is gone forever.
Gone is the savior of down-trodden and poor.
Gone is our solace and comfort and happiness.
Winds of time have extinguished the flame of knowledge.
O Gajanan you were our guardian.
Who will offer us protection now?
There was no reason
To leave us so soon.' ... 85

All the devotees
Vishnusa, Bankatlal, Martand Patil
Tarachand, Shripatrao Kulkarni, Hari Patil
Rushed to the monastery.
It was the day of Rishi Panchami.
All of them decided to close
Maharaj's Samadhi the next morn.
This was announced at the site ... 86

They decided to wait till the evening
For devotees to come and pay respect.
They remarked that fortunate ones will get darshan.
This news went round to various sections.
Govindshastri Dongaonkar, a learned person
Said, 'Maharaj would keep the life flame burning
Till the affectionate devotees keep coming.
To prove that he said, ;Keep some butter on his head ... 87

The lump melted with the warmth.
This was the effect of Yogashastra acquired by Maharaj.

Govindshastri said Maharaj can live like this for a year
But it was advisable to close Samadhi after darshans are
over.

It was agreed by all.

A thousand devotees sang devotional songs.

Devotees who lived far away from Shegaon

Got the news in their dreams flashed by Maharaj ... 88

A huge crowd of devotees

Gathered at Shegaon that Rishi Panchami.

A chariot was decorated for his last journey.

Many Bhajan singers

Reached Shegaon in big processions.

Roads were cleaned and decorated with Rangoli.

Illuminations with all over to celebrate the journey ... 89

Maharaj was moved to the decorated chariot

And the last journey started.

It went round the town all night

Proceeded by musical bands on the ride.

Small groups sang Bhajans.

Others said 'Jai' to Shree Vitthal.

Tulsi, gulal, bukka were showered on Maharaj

Distributing sweets as the saint's Prasad ... 90

Some from the crowd showered Rupees and coins

On the chariot carrying the Saint.

The procession moving through Shegaon

Reached the monastery at the dawn.

He was carried to the place of Samadhi

And bathed to the chanting of religious melodies.

Final worship was offered with rituals and honor.

The gathering shouted 'Jai Gajanan' ... 91

'Jai to the God who came as a man.

Jai to him who bestows immense bliss.

Jai to the Lord of this globe.'

Saying thus the body was rested

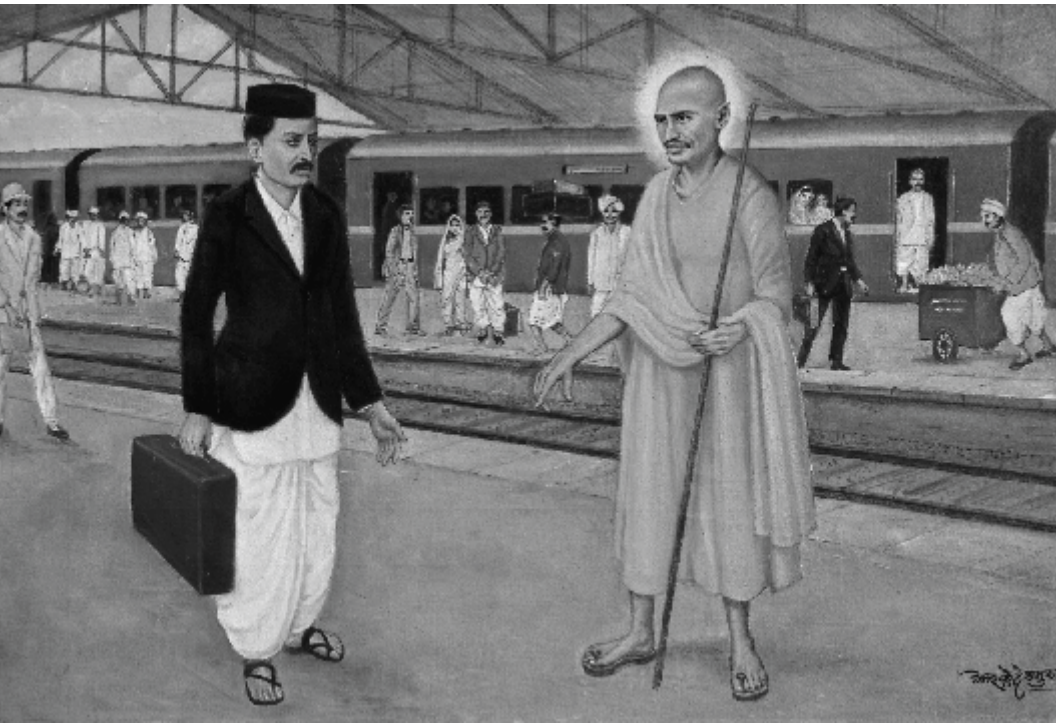
With head to the North at Samadhi place.

Everyone watched it saying, 'Jai Gajanan'.
The pit was filled with salt, argaja, abir and so on ... 92

The saint is still there.
Prayers were offered for ten days.
Large gatherings visited the place.
Each one was offered food on those dates
As Prasad of Gajanan Maharaj the saint.
Innumerable devotees participated in the ritual.
Greatness of a saint is really supreme.
Even an emperor is insignificant before him ... 93

We hope this treatise
Brings happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Twenty



At the time of returning at Bori Bunder station
He saw a sage with long arms and concentration.
He was chanting the name of God
And slowly he approached Laxman.
He asked, 'Why do you look so frustrated
When you are a devotee of Gajanan saint?

Chapter 20

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to you consort of Rukmini
Resting on the banks of Chandrabhaga River
Please bless me in this endeavor.
You are the king of kings, In charge of everything.
Then why do you ignore me?
Let your kind grace
Destroy my sins and anxieties ... 1

Lend me cheer to sing your glory.
If this way I am not blessed
It is you who will be solely blamed.
Such blemish should not come on thee.
O Shyamsunder, Consort of Rukmini,
O Pandurang of Pandhapur,
Vithoba on Chandrabhaga River
Please fulfill my desire ... 2

After the 'Nirvan' of Shree Gajanan Maharaj
People said there is nothing left at Shegaon.
A sea without water or a bower without flowers
Lose their charm.
They thought it is useless going to Shegaon
Like offering flowers at a temple without God.
So many said that, but it was wrong.
The invisible flame of Maharaj is still immortal in Shegaon
... 3

Though Dnyaneshwar Maharaj attained Samadhi
On the banks of River Indrayani
He did meet there many devotees.
Like that Shree Gajanan Maharaj
Gives darshan to those who come along
Believing that he exists in Shegaon.
Here follows the incident of Ganapat Kothade
A staunch devotee of the great Saint ... 4

Kothade worked as an agent
At Shegaon Branch of Rayali Company.
Every evening he would go to the saint's Samadhi.
He would sit there for some time in meditation
For mental satisfaction.
One evening he thought that on Dasera day
He should perform Abhishek worship
And offer food to Brahmins at the temple ... 5

He made all arrangements accordingly
And bought necessary provisions and grocery.
His wife didn't like it and said,
'Sir, what are you doing? This is a waste!
Tomorrow is Vijaya Dashami festival.
Get new clothes for the children.
All this spending on Abhishek and Brahmins
Will not bring you anything ... 6

We have children to feed.
I don't have an ornament to wear
Does this befit a house holder?
We have also to save our future.'
Ganapat did not like this advice.
He told her that caring for others
Ranks higher than demands of domestic life.
The same night Maharaj appeared to her in a dream ... 7

'Don't harass your husband any more.
Let him do what he likes.

This would bring you no loss.
Don't have love and attachment for transient things.
All the possessions will dissipate.
Your deeds alone will be never abate.
Abhishek and feeding are good actions ... 8

These deeds involve sacrifice
In the form of service to others.
Expenses on such fetes are never a waste.
It is like a seed sown in the earth.
So take my advice. I tell you not to obstruct him.'
With a counseling like this
Ended her precious dream ... 9

Next morning she told her husband this
Who was happy at the occurrence.
He advised her to have full faith
In the continuing existence of the Saint.
He asked her to believe that all things
Including children, assets and precious gold
Belonged to Maharaj in his fold
And she should stop worrying about these ... 10

Ganapat celebrated Dasera with a worship of Maharaj
And a feast to Brahmins as envisaged.
His faith in the saint was more sublime
With these incidents in his life.
Now to the experience of Laxman Hari Janjal.
He was a devotee of Shree Gajanan Maharaj.
He went to Mumbai for some business
With a mind disturbed by domestic problems. ... 11

At the time of returning at Bori Bunder station
He saw a sage with long arms and concentration.
He was chanting the name of God
And slowly he approached Laxman.
He asked, 'Why do you look so frustrated
When you are a devotee of Gajanan saint?

Do you remember the food made on the death anniversary?
It was for four hundred guests at Amaravati ... 12

That time their teacher Bapat had lost his son
Yet with Pethkar he did come to partake in the prasad.
It was due to Maharaj. He had appeared in their dreams
To say they should join your gathering.
Have you forgotten all this?
Laxman was confused with all this rendering ... 13

He wondered who this man could be.
With respect he bowed to the sage
Who suddenly disappeared in a moment.
When Laxman returned he amended his behavior
And performed the anniversary every year.
Shree Gajanan Maharaj had met
Avadhut Jairam Khedkar of Rahit Sahit village
In the garb of a saint ... 14

Madhav Martand Joshi, a Government Officer
Once came to Kalamb Kasur village all the way
For land survey. It was Thursday.
Being a devotee of Maharaj, He desired to visit Shegaon.
He told his peon Kutubuddin
To get ready with the bullock cart ... 15

Kutubuddin humbly told Joshi
That the weather was nasty.
'Man' river was flooded with muddy water.
Ignoring this request Joshi got the cart.
He asked Kutubuddin to drive to Shegaon.
This cart entered the river
And soon was filled with gushing water
Before they could cross over ... 16

A storm combined with lightning and thunder roared
Welling the River 'Man's flood.
Many huts around were uprooted
Kutubuddin was frightened of death.

Joshi too was scared. He started praying to the Saint
From amidst this natural calamity.
With folded hands he said, ... 17

'O Gajanan no one except you can save us now.
Scriptures describe a sage saving a sinking boat
By just touching it at the sea.
You too Shree Gajanan have similar powers.
Kindly extend your hand and save me.'
Water entered the cart, and the bullocks got frightened.
Joshi told Kutubuddin to leave the reins
And pray to Maharaj to come and help us ... 18

'O powerful Maharaj our lives are in your hands.
Do as you like. Take us or save us.'
Reins of the cart were thrown aside.
Both of them closed their eyes.
Then a miracle came over.
The cart had safely crossed the river
And was standing on the other shore.
Both of them were glad at the marvel ... 19

They were happy to experience the authority
Of Maharaj who saved them from the calamity.
Saved from the dreadful plight
They reached Shegaon at night.
They bowed down at the Samadhi.
After joining the procession Joshi offered money
To feed Brahmins as per his vow
And left Shegaon on his routine journey ... 20

Yadav Ganesh Subhedar was a cotton broker at Hingani,
Once he lost Rupees Ten Thousand in brokerage money.
His health and well-being dwindled completely.
He tried his best to re-establish himself
And recover the loss. But he failed completely.
During that period he went to Wardha
To his friend Asirkar
Where at the door came a beggar ... 21

He was garbed in Maharashtrian attire,
Had a big stick in his hand and a dirty headgear.
He was shaking like an old man.
Looking at him Asirkar got mad
And yelled out at him to get to the back door.
There was a chance of getting alms there.
He said, 'Don't come here anywhere near.'
The beggar completely disobeyed the order ... 22

He stepped up and sat near Subhedar
And held his bowl in his front for alms.
Said, 'Please spare some coins for me if you can.'
Subhedar wondered at the audacity of the man.
He stared at the beggar who looked like Maharaj.
The man had the same gleam in eyes and style of talk.
The only difference was that this person
Was shaking with some unknown disturbance ... 23

His features too were like the Saint.
This made Subhedar think a moment.
'How can he be the Maharaj
Who took samadhi long back?
Whatever be the state
I will give him money as to the Saint.'
The beggar took the dole and asked for more
Reminding him to hand out jaggary as he had vowed ... 24

He said that the loss in business
Was because of no fulfillment of the commitment.
Yadav gave him some money but he asked for more
Yadav spared a handful coins for the old man's bowl.
At this time Asirkar went inside leaving them alone.
The beggar said, 'Don't have qualms about the saint.
Remove your clothes. You are like a son to me.
All your ailments will vanish as I look at your body' ... 25

The beggar moved his hand over Yadav's person.
This was the time Asirkar returned.
The beggar who was there disappeared.

Subhedar tried to locate him thereafter
But couldn't see him anywhere.
Yadav guessed that he was Maharaj.
He thought it was an auspicious augury
And he would be blessed with lot of money ... 26

His carts loaded with cotton
Came to Wardha for sale on the same date.
He got a good profit on his deals that day.
Yadav then believed that the beggar he met
Was none other than the Saint.
Maharaj always protects his devotees.
The experience of Doctor Kavar next
Is another story ... 27

Bhau Rajaram Kavar was transferred to Telhara
From the hospital at Khamgaon.
Before joining at the new place
With his family he came to Shegaon.
After darshan of Maharaj
He hired a bullock cart.
Balabhau addressed him
When he was about to start ... 28

I request you to leave Shegaon
Tomorrow after the Prasad.
You never went away this way
In all your visits on previous occasions.
Moreover today is not an auspicious date
To go on a travel at any rate.
Kavar seemed to agree to half heartedly
But left the place as predecided ... 29

The night was drenched in darkness deep.
He missed the road after he launched on the trip
And strayed into a narrow path
Ending at a lake in a barren patch.
The cart stopped in the woods with no one around
To guide him out of the unknown ground.

The cartman said they have missed the direction.
Kavar was surprised but understood the situation ... 30

He abused the cart man for his mistake.
Thereupon the cart man said,
'Don't curse me like this.
I go to Telhara every week
As far as I think I took the right road
The bullocks too walked straight on the course.
I don't know how they came to this lake.
This is not the path they ever always take.' ... 31

Kavar faintly guessed the cause of the event.
He thought it to be the action of the Saint
As he had left Shegaon without Prasad
And that too ignoring Balabhau's request.
With folded hands he implored Maharaj
To protect him and show him the right path.
Suddenly he heard twinkling bells of bullocks
Which lent him sufficient courage in the dark ... 32

He asked the cart man to go in that direction.
This way they reached the road junction.
Enquiring there they learnt
That they were still in the Shegaon jurisdiction.
Kavar asked the cart man to drive back to Shegaon
Where they reached in the early hours of the morn.
He told Balabhau what happened on the way
He said Maharaj disliked their going this way ... 33

'Now take Prasad and go tomorrow.
No one should refuse Prasad before leaving this borough.
It is he who has brought you back safe.
None should expect things to go always his way.
Whatever the saint's wish will happen
So have faith in them and don't complain.'
Next day after taking Prasad
Kavar left for Telhara by the right path ... 34

A person named Ratansa, Bhavasar by caste
Had a year old son sick for some time past.
He had some disease which made him weak.
Many doctors administered medicines
But there was no sign of relief.
He took no milk. High fever made him sick.
He cried all day long.
Doctors declared that there was no cure at all ... 35

Ratansa grieved over the child's health.
Dinkar was almost nearing death.
His extremities had turned cold,
Light in his eyes had dulled down most.
His pulse was missing as a warning note.
Ratansa brought him to the saint's Samadhi
And put him there near the divinity.
He folded his hands and said, ... 36

'O Maharaj! Please save my child.
If he survives, i will distribute sweets worth Rupees Five.
You have blessed many devotees.
I too want to experience such bounty.
Kindly don't ignore me.
If my child dies at your gate
It will bring you a great disgrace.' ... 37

People declare
That the touch of your feet is like a drop of nectar.
Please bless me, O protector.
If my child dies at your door
I will break my head and live no more.
O Gajanan a glance of yours is like elixir.
Please look at us and save the infant.' ... 38

Moments later the child moved and started crying.
To devotees around it was a miraculous thing.
It was all due to the grace of Gajanan Maharaj.
Darkness can never obliterate the brightness of the Sun.
Dinkar recovered fully as a result of absolute devotion

Which had at its origin in faith and conviction.
Similarly Dada Kolhatkar was blessed with a son
By the boundless blessings of Shree Gajanan ... 39

Ramchandra Patil's daughter
Chandrabhaga who was barely sixteen
Faced a difficult time at delivery.
The experience is painful for womanhood generally.
As per tradition she came from Ladegaon
To her mother's place for delivery.
After the child birth she was running temperature
Which was declared to be typhoid fever ... 40

She was treated by many doctors around
But the temperature never came down.
She was taken to Akola for better treatment
Each one had a different diagnosis for her ailment.
There was no unanimity of opinion.
All healings resulted in confusion.
Patil decided to surrender to Maharaj for treatment.
And got holy ash and water from the saint's place ... 41

Chandrabhaga applied holy angara to forehead
And sipped holy tirtha every day.
She who couldn't walk a step
Could soon go to the samadhi's steps.
This was the effect of holy ash and water.
God always blesses them who have faith in Him.
Each devotee should have resolute devotion
In the entity of his worship ... 42

Janakibai wife of Ramchandra had to suffer
From discomforts predestined for her.
She had gastric trouble and stomach ache.
Medications did not give her a break.
The ailments affected her wits
And she started acting like a lunatic.
Her speech even lost clarity.
At times she lost sense of being hungry ... 43

Some said she was haunted by an evil spirit.
Some others branded this as a queer disease.
Some went to the extent of saying
Patil as an executive had many enemies
Who retaliated on the family with black magic.
Medical treatment brought no results.
Being rich he was exploited by many doctors.
He spent a lot But got no relief for her ... 44

Tired of all this he then said'
'Gajanan Maharaj will now be my doctor saint.
My wife is his daughter in law.
His blessings will eliminate all the ills.'
After her bath every morning she circled the Samadhi.
With this routine and her husband's advice
Her devotion to Maharaj was not wasted.
She was cured of all her ailments ... 45

Sincere services to real saints
Are never wasted but they should be full of faith.
After Shree Gajanan, Balabhau took his place.
He performed a few miracles in the town
And expired on Vaishakh sixth of the waning moon.
The saint went into the dream of Narayan
Asking him to replace Balabhau.
He died in Chaitra on sixth of the waxing moon ... 46

Service to saints is a pious achievement.
This chance comes only to those with good precedents.
Legends of Shree Gajanan are beyond measure
Like the stars in the expanse of these heavens
Beyond description of ignorant humans.
The ocean of the saint's life is unfathomable.
I am just an instrument, the pen which writes.
The writer has been the Saint divine ... 47

Hope this treatise
Brings happiness to the devotees.

Chapter Twenty One



Ramchandra, son of Krishnaji Patil
Was a sincere devotee of Maharaj.
One noon the saint went to his house
In an ascetic mendicant's garb.
He called Ramchandra and asked for food to eat.
Ramchandra glanced at him he looked like Maharaj.
He respectfully brought the ascetic in
And offered him a short plank seat to sit

Chapter 21

Shree Ganeshay namah

Jai to thee, O multisplendored,
Jai to thee the indestructible.
Jai to Lord of things near and far
Jai to the king of this cosmos!
You call yourself the savior of the fallen.
You forgive sinners with great affection.
This action brings to you further significance.
I request you to ignore my sins too without reservation ... 1

Soiled clothes are brought to water to get laundered.
I have come to you, don't ignore me please.
Earth doesn't discard a thorny tree.
You save both, sinners and the blameless
Without discrimination or attachment.
Sun needs no extra glow to displace darkness.
Its rise is enough to devour the gloominess.
Concepts of sin and virtue are your own process ... 2

You create the sinners to uphold your worth.
Whatever it is please relieve me
From this dense danger, with your blessings.
O Pandurang. You are so powerful
I have no one else to support me in the mundane muddle.
Now I turn your attention dear readers
To this final climax.
You have been with me all through till here ... 3

It calls for good fortune to read about this saint.
Those who have faith are saved
From pain and miseries of these days.
An incident at the temple is proof ample
At the construction of the temple
A laborer was working at the top with a mason.
He lost his balance and fell ... 4

He slipped while passing a stone to the mason
And came down from a height of thirty feet.
He fell on a heap of stones.
People saw him tumbling down
And assumed the certainty of his demise.
But it was otherwise. A miracle swept the scene.
He was unhurt and came down safe and sound.
Someone had caught him in the air
And left him down to stand on his feet ... 5

But no one was seen in the region
People were happy to hear and know
That it was the saint who saved the person.
Maharaj would not let anyone get hurt
In the process of temple construction.
The labourer was most lucky
To feel the touch of the divinity at this juncture ... 6

A Rajput lady afflicted by an evil spirit
Came to Shegaon from Jaipur district.
God Dattatraya advised the lady
To come to Shegaon on Ramnavami
To enable her to get rid of the trouble
With the blessings of Gajanan swami.
She came with her children on the appointed day.
The festival had started on Pratipada, the first day ... 7

Crowds had gathered to celebrate Ram's incarnation.
This time there was a hall under construction.
Stone pillars measuring five feet by eighteen inches
Were lying around supportless.

Work was suspended for the time being.
After the celebration people rushed for Prasad.
The lady went to a pillar for support
Which fell on her and the children. Alas! ... 8

People were afraid that she had died under the weight.
No one even knew her name and address.
They lifted the pillar and pulled her out straight.
Gave her a glass of water and rushed her for a check
To Doctor Lobo across the street.
She was a surgeon and devotee of Christ.
She examined the Rajput lady with great care
And was amazed to see that she was unhurt ... 9

The falling of a pillar on her had a different significance.
With this action the Saint liberated her from a spirit.
After getting exorcised from the evil
The lady and her children returned to Jaipur safe and sound.
Similarly at another festival
A large beam fell on the head of Naik Navare a worker.
Who miraculously escaped unhurt
By the saint's benevolence ... 10

Ramchandra son of Krishnaji Patil
Was a sincere devotee of Maharaj.
One noon the saint went to his house
In an ascetic mendicant's garb.
He called Ramchandra and asked for food to eat.
Ramchandra glanced at him he looked like Maharaj.
He respectfully brought the ascetic in
And offered him a short plank seat to sit ... 11

He worshipped the guest and stood there still
There upon the ascetic said to Patil,
'I have come here today to tell you something.
Don't be troubled by the debts you have.
They will be cleared in days shortly.
River Godavari dries up in summer

But rains fill it in a few hours.
Prosperity will soon dance at your door ... 12

The house where I eat never suffers defeat.
Bring me a dishful of delicacies
And some clothes to dress in.
Any offerings you make to me
Will positively reach the Almighty
Provided the donor is a pious devotee
Of the all pervading Divinity ... 13

Ramchandra brought him delicious dishes.
Which the ascetic enjoyed in great happiness.
When he offered dakshina to the guest
He returned the Five Rupees and said,
'I don't want any money, I came here to ask you to take up
The management of the temple
In stead of dakshina give me this service ... 14

I don't see any one more proficient
Than you to take up this pious action.
Your ailing wife will regain her health.
I will tie a Talisman around your son's neck
To keep evil spirits away from him.
This job I am asking you to take up
Is a difficult one as your own people
May at times try to stall your efforts ... 15

The job is like working in a tiger's hide
Each move is to be monitored with great skill.
Don't breed any jealousy in your mind.
Let each move of yours be honest and kind.
Don't take up a project against the authority.
Respect saints and sages, discard illogicality.
If you follow this simple guide
God will always be on your side ... 16

Let your expenses not be more than your income.
Never show off beyond your competence.

Don't let sages and saints go empty handed
When they come to you on their own or invited.
Adore these saintly personalities.
God dislikes them who insult such dignitaries.
Never ever think of harming blood relations
Respect your relatives with established traditions ...17

If you at all lose your temper
Let it not be deeper than a superficial cover
Like a jack fruit coarse outside
With loving pardon hidden inside.
And lastly remember I am always with you.
After tying a talisman around his neck
The ascetic disappeared in a moment.
Ramchandra thought over the incident all day ... 18

He arrived at a conclusion that the guest was Maharaj
Who had come to advise him in an ascetic garb.
The same night Maharaj appeared in his dream
To remove lingering doubts from his mind.
Maharaj has great affection for his devotees.
His glorious life story is a savior of humanity.
But it does require a resolute faith
To experience his magnanimity. 19

Now in this saga of the great sage
We have come to a stage where we recapitulate
The glory of his victory.
The first chapter after obeisance to Deities
Tells the story of how the saint appeared
On Magh Vadya Saptami
Near the house of Devidas a devotee ... 20

Bankatlal and Damodar were the two
Who recognized the saint true.
In the second he attended the kirtan
Of Govindbua and showed a miracle
To Pitambar Shimpi and then went
To the house of Bankat Bhavaniram.

Third chapter depicts the offering
Of heroin to the saint ... 21

This was done by an ascetic
Against a promise of fulfillment of his dream.
Maharaj started smoking heroin.
Water touched by his feet had a salutary effect.
It saved Janrao Deshmukh from death.
Maharaj explains the types of death.
Throws out Vithoba for his deceit.
The fourth deals with the arrogance of Jankiram ... 22

He doesn't give burning coal for the saint's pipe.
Because of this his feast is spoilt.
He begs pardon of the saint
And the food turns to edible again.
Janakiram becomes his devotee.
Maharaj asks Chandu for 'Kanhole' sweets.
He liberates Madhao after showing life after death.
Disciples perform Vasant Puja with great mirth ... 23

Chapter five depicts Maharaj
Sitting in a Yogic posture at Pimpalgaon.
It was at the Mahadeo temple
Where the cowherds worshipped him
They all were at Pimplegaon
Where Bankatlal went to bring him back.
Then he went to Akoli to liberate Bhaskar,
He got water in a dry well. Bhaskar comes under the
Saint's care ... 24

The sixth chapter describes Bankatlal's farm.
People had gathered to eat corn on the cob.
Bees attacked the invitees
Who ran away except Bankatlal.
The incident tested his devotional matter.
Bee sting had no effect on Maharaj.
He went to Akot to meet Narsinghji
Who was the disciple of Kotasha Ali ... 25

He stayed there for a few days only
 He had brotherly relations with Narasinhaji.
 Then he went to village Shiver
 On the banks of Chandrabhaga River
 To meet Vrajabhushan.
 He then visited the Hanuman temple
 And stayed there for the Shravan celebrations.
 The seventh chapter tells some thing queer ... 26

It is about the Patil brothers
 Who were rough in their behavior.
 They spoke to Maharaj with arrogance.
 Hari lost a wrestling bout with the saint.
 With the miracle of sugarcane their ego shrivelled.
 He blessed Khandu Patil with a son, Bhikya was his name.
 Saint asked him to feed people with mango juice every
 year.
 Patil brothers started respecting the seer ... 27

Chapter eight talks of a dispute
 Of Saga of a family feud between Patil and Deshmukh.
 Mahar Chowkidar lodged a complaint against Patil.
 An offence was registered against him.
 But he was exonerated by the Saint's blessings.
 Maharaj recited Vedas in front of Telangana Brahmins
 And proved his authority over the scriptures ... 28

He stayed in Krishna's garden at the temple of Shiva.
 There he explained a few lines of Geeta to Brahmagiri
 ascetic and crushed his ego.
 Here he was unhurt by a burning cot
 Conveying that fire can do a saint no harm.
 The ninth chapter witnesses a wild horse turned.
 A person was reminded of his vow to bring heroin.
 Maharaj with disciples went to Balkrishna's house ...29

This was at Balapur on Das Navami day
 Where Balkrishna was given darshan of Ramdas
 And all his doubts were cleared away.

Chapter ten takes us to Amaravati
To meet Balabhau of spiritual identity.
Ganesh Appa and Chandrabai
Surrender their worldly belongings
At the feet of the Saint and get His blessings ... 30

Maharaj blessed Ganesh Dada Khaparde.
Balabhau was beaten by an umbrella one day
To test his devotion.
A naughty cow was calmed down.
Ghude's hypocrisy was exposed.
Chapter eleven tells of Bhaskar's dog bite.
Maharaj taking him to Trimbakeshwar.
Where he met Gopaldas at Nashik ... 31

At the request of Zyamsingh, Maharaj visited Adgaon.
Bhaskar expired and was interred at Dwarakeshwar
By the side of Satibai's resting place.
Crows were ordered to stop their menace
Ganu Javeri was saved from an explosion in the well.
Chapter twelve tells story of Bachchulal.
Pitambar Shimpi wears clothes given by Maharaj.
At Kondoli Maharaj brings leaves to a barren tree ...32

Pitamber stayed at Kondoli till he lived on.
Now let us go chapter thirteen
A new temple was built at Shegaon
The Saint came there in cart carrying sand.
Zyamsingh took Maharaj to Mundgaom.
Rains stopped the feeding program.
Zyamsingh gave his property to Maharaj,
Pundalik was saved from plague infection. ... 33

Gangabharati was cured of leprosy.
In chapter fourteen Bandutatya got lucky.
He found buried treasure
And freed himself of all his debts.
This was all due to the blessings of the seer.
On Somvati Amavasya he went to Narmada River.

Boat carrying him got a hole at bottom.
Narmada closed it by delicate hands of her ... 34

A betel leaf was sent to Madhavnath.
Chapter fifteen describes the Akola scene
Where Tilak came for Shiva Jayanti.
He was given bhakari as Prasad.
Shridhar Kale was not allowed to go abroad.
In chapter sixteen Pundalik was restrained
From going to Anjangaon.
Maharaj sent paduka to him with Zyamsingh ... 35

He enjoyed 'Bhaji Bhakar' brought by Kavar.
Tukaram was relieved of a gun shot
Which entered his head near his ear.
Chapter seventeen tells of his travel
To Vishnusa staying at Malkapur,
When police prosecuted him for being nude.
Mehtabshah was sent back to Punjab
Advising him to command communities' harmony ... 36

Effects of an evil spirit were removed from Bapurao's wife.
Ganges and Godavari waters were brought to Akot well site.
Chapter eighteen tells the story of Baija.
And how Doctor Kavar's boil was cured by sacred ash.
Maharaj goes to Pandharpur with disciples and Bapuna
Bapuna Kale was given darshan of Vithoba.
A devotee from Kavathe Bahadur caught cholera infection.
Maharaj cured him in a minute's fraction ... 37

To remove the ego of an orthodox Brahmin
A dead dog was brought back to life.
Chapter nineteen brings blessings to Kashinathpant.
Gopal Buty takes the saint to Nagpur as guest.
Hari Patil brings him back from the feast.
Maharaj meets Shree Vasudevanand Saraswati.
Balabhau had some doubts about the meeting ... 38

Maharaj removes those doubts.

He protects grains from donkeys' grazing.
 Narayan dies at Balapur, a consequence of beating Maharaj.
 Saint blesses Jakhade who gets married as he wished.
 At Kapildhara Nimonkar gets his darshan.
 As service to Maharaj Tukaram gives his son Narayan.
 Maharaj goes to Pandharpur
 Takes permission from Vithoba and returns from the tour
 ... 39

In the month of Bhadrapada on Rishi Panchami
 The saint of our times took Samadhi.
 Chapter twenty narrates miracles after the day.
 Those with faith get darshan and blessings even today.
 Chapter twenty first is the climax of the story
 Summarising the happenings in the journey.
 This effort has been made for the devotees
 To enjoy the essence of saint's history ... 40

Several incidents do occur
 Those remind us of his existence.
 Contributions came in ample
 For the construction of the temple.
 It is a majestic structure with no parallel in the world.
 With rest houses in all quarters
 For the devoted visitors ... 41

Listing the donors will be a long process.
 So given here are important names.
 Hari Kukaji Patil, Banaji of Sangawi.
 Ganaji of Umari, Mesaji of Batwadi,
 Gangaram of Ladegaon, Bhagu Nandu, Gujabai
 Banabai of Akola mother of Sukhdeo Patil.
 All of them donated in thousands.
 There were other donors to the list ... 42

Ramchandra Krishnaji Patil, Dattu Bhikaji,
 Sukhdevji of Palaskhed, Martand Ganapati
 Resident of Shegaon, Ratanlal Balchand,

Dattulal and Bisanlal of Panchgavhan,
Ambarsingh of Takli, Kisan Belmandalekar,
Vithoba Patil Chavarekar, Gangaram of Hasanapur.
All these donors got together in devotion
And donated generously for the construction ... 43

Around the Samadhi were built halls
Offices and kitchens to serve visitors all.
Yet much remained to be completed.
Thus a novel idea was initiated.
Each land lord paid an anna per Rupee
Of his revenue as religious duty
And each cart load of commodity coming to the market
Paid half anna per Rupee to the kitty ... 44

They all paid the amount happily
As it was used as construction money.
Many fire worships were performed for collection.
Four of them were great celebrations.
Kisanlal Shethji performed Shatchandi Anushtan
Inviting many learned Brahmins to perform.
The procedure of this worship is complicated.
Any error in the process is not tolerated by Goddess Chandi
... 45

This fire worship is performed under great tension.
Bankatlal, father of Kishanlal
Was a great devotee of Maharaj.
On the last day of the performance
He got such a sickness that he was sinking to death.
Everyone was worried and wondered
Why such a thing should threaten his health
When the Shatchandi Yadnya was in progress ... 46

Bankatlal said to Kisan, 'My son, don't be upset.
My savior Shree Gajanan will set the things right.
So go ahead and perform the yadnya with correct rituals.
Saint protecting his devotees will remove all obstacles.'

It all turned out to be correct.
Bankatlal soon got well with the blessings of the saint.
During this worship a lady under the influence of an evil spell
Was also relieved from the menace and went home well
... 47

Banaji Tidke Sangavikar, Gujabai of Kasura,
Waman Shyamrao of Chapadgaon
Also performed Yadna at Samadhi at Shegaon.
Thus many religious functions were held.
Shree Gajanan Maharaj is a great saint.
So long people were pious in their stance
Vidharbha was a happy piece of land.
With decrease in faith downfall began ... 48

The yield from farms dwindled to a lower mark.
The saint couldn't bear such a disorder.
Therefore probably he concealed himself under water.
In fact the foundation of Samadhi site
Was built with mortar from depth of thirty feet
And there was no reason for water to leak.
Thus it was felt that Maharaj was upset
At Vidharbha's attitude of neglect ... 49

He thus collected water around him.
If people of Vidharbha desire to win again
They should start worshipping the saint.
This should be with great faith.
If not, more despair they may have to face.
Whatever is sown in the land of Shree Gajanan
Will bring back a yield in multiple of a million.
Grain sowed on rocks will bring nothing back ... 50

Whenever service to saints is ignored
The result is famine in the region around.
Religion is like a tiger in your psyche's den.
If it is not there jackals of bad thoughts will dominate the cave.
Devotion is like a virtuous woman divine.

Its absence resembles a concubine
Who brings disgrace to a person
Spending time in her association ... 51

Don't deviate from the path of religion
And don't drift away from faith's conviction.
Don't fight amongst yourselves.
This alone will increase your strength.
Behavior of this nature will surely brighten your future.
Visit Shegaon at least once a year
For darshan of Gajanan, the great seer ... 52

Read these prayers once a year.
Reading twenty one chapters of this narration
Is like offering as many modaks to Shree Gajanan.
Or consider these chapters as twenty one tender twigs
Of durva grass and offer them each
With the reading of this devotional recitation.
With friendly feelings of human nature
Lend joy to the entire atmosphere ... 53

It is like rays of the moon taking over the night
Which should be reckoned as a great delight
As the Ganesh Chaturthi festival bright.
Consider each letter here as a durva blades
And it's meaning as the modak sweet.
Offering of durva and modak
Should be done in the form of reading
These verses are authentic and not mere fictional writing
... 54

A nonbeliever here is a loser.
One who reads this with faith regularly
Will achieve what he desires.
This holy book is like River Ganges
With events as water and the verses as waves.
This biography is like the wish fulfilling tree
With chapters as branches and stanzas as leaves.
He who has faith will achieve the saint's blessings ... 55

He will be protected by the Divinity
In times of difficulty.
The volume is like the wish granting crystal
Which gives you all you desire
Provided you have full faith in the endeavor.
Every house where this holy story
Of Shree Gajanan is read daily
Will achieve perpetual prosperity ... 56

By reading this book poor will get wealth.
Sick persons will regain their health.
Infertile will be blessed with a child.
Those desiring a son will get a male offspring.
The reader will get a selfless friend.
All his anxieties will come to an end.
One who reads this on Dashami, Ekadashi and Dwadashi
Will be bestowed by the Saint with prosperity ... 57

He who reads the entire book
On Gurupushya day in one sitting
Will achieve fulfillment of all desires and well being.
Presence of the book in the house will keep away
All sort of evil spirits from your way.
This is the magnitude of the treatise
Which can be experienced by faithful devotees.
Only rajhansa birds can rejoice Manasarovar's bliss ... 58

Likewise this composition is for saintly people.
Our land had many saints in the past.
Dnyaneshwar, Mira, Mehta, Kabir,
Nama, Savata, Chokha Mahar,
Gora, Bodhala, Damaji, Ainath at Umbarkhed,
Sakharam at Amalner, Dev Mamaledar,
Yeshwant or Manik Prabhu of Humanabad.
Similar to them is Shree Gajanan Maharaj of Shegaon ... 59

My only request to the devotees
Is that they love the saint wholeheartedly.

To enable them to liberate themselves
From the birth and death cycle eternally.
Now I request Shree Gajanan Maharaj
To free me from all my despair.
I have just been your spokesman.
Please show me the right path of salvation ... 60

I hate every thing that is evil.
Let me keep up my routine
Of visiting your shrine till the end of my life.
Let my love for saints stay alive.
Give me the pleasure of residing on the banks of Godavari.
Let me be self sufficient to avoid beggary.
Please ensure that you will be around me
I am at the feet of saints. From you I beseech safety ... 61

O Gajanan! This book narrates happenings
With the inspiration from your blessings.
Ratansa's archives at the monastery
Have been the source of this glorious story.
Nothing here is based on imagination.
I cannot be responsible for omissions and commissions.
Even then if there are any mistakes
I beg your saintly pardon for my sake ... 62

Writing in Marathi was completed by Das Ganu
With blessings of Shree Gajanan Maharaj
In the morning of the first day of the year
Called Pramathi samvastar.
It was Wednesday in the month of Chaitra
Of Shaka One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty One.
It was written at Shegaon
And presented to Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... 63

Let this treatise bless the devotees.

jai gajanan

॥ ... Anant Koti Brahmand Nayak ... ॥
॥ ... Maharajadheeraaj Yogiraj ... ॥
॥ ... Parabrahma Satchidanand ... ॥
॥ ... Bhakta Pratipalak Samartha Sadguru ... ॥
॥ ... Shegaon Nivasi Shree Gajanan Maharaj ... ॥

॥ Samapta ... The End ॥



Shree Gajanan Maharaj Samadhi Mandir, Shegaon



Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan

Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaha

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan

About, Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, Shegaon...

The Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan was established in 1908 while Shree Gajanan Maharaj lived in Shegaon. Initially there were 12 trustees, who were drawn from amongst the close devotees of Shree Gajanan Maharaj. The rules and regulations of the Trust framed in the presence of Shree Gajanan Maharaj are followed scrupulously even today. These are the guiding principles on which the trust functions. Selfless service, non-accumulation of wealth, using the donations for the benefit of all people are the cornerstones of this charter. The end towards which all the resources and efforts of the sansthan dedicated is "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinaha" - May all beings be happy.

About 75000 devotees on an average visit the temple for darshan. The Sansthan has been carrying out in all 42 activities on the above principles with devotion. 2000 honorary workers and 3500 volunteers render their services in the Sansthan. About 3000 volunteers are in queue at any point of time, eager to render their services to the sansthan. Some of the major activities are

a) The Sansthan promotes educational activities. A residential school for mentally challenged children which has 150 students in its rolls is being run by the Sansthan. The Warkari Shikshan Sanstha imparts spiritual education to 120 male students over a period of 4 years.

Shree Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan

b) Medical services are provided to the needy and disadvantaged through free dispensaries and mobile dispensaries which reach remote rural areas in and around Shegaon. A scheme to reimburse medical expenses of those inhabitants of Buldhana district who are below the poverty line covers 13,38,881 people from 1140 villages. Vaccination camps are also organized.

c) Besides these, philanthropic activities carried on include free distribution of food to pilgrims and free commuting facilities around the vicinity of the temple.

d) Keeping in view the nature of the Vidarbha region developmental activity is carried on. Scheme to provide drinking water and fodder in the drought prone areas is undertaken.

e) The Sansthan has developed the Anand Sagar, a garden for rest and recreation which showcases our spiritual tradition. It attracts a growing number of people every year. More than 25 lakh people visited Anand Sagar during the last year.

All the activities of the Sansthan are possible only because of the grace and blessings of Shree Gajanan Maharaj. Over the years his grace is undiminished and continues to touch the lives of a growing number of devotees. The Sansthan is thus an instrument of his divine purpose.