

Divine Experiences
Special-issue

A Publication of Sant Shri Asharamji Ashram

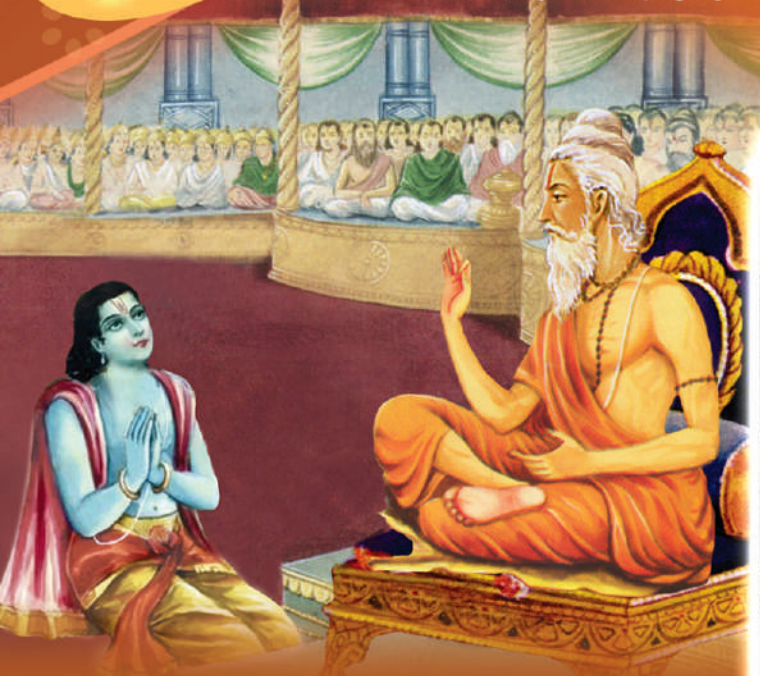
RISHI PRASAD

Price: ₹ 7 Language: English

Publication Date: 1st July 2022

Year: 22 Issue: 05 (Continuing Issue: 355)

Number of pages: 36 (including cover pages)



Maharshi Vasishtha Ji says,
‘O Rāma! I am aware of how the ignorant ridicule and speak about me. Yet, overcome by compassion, I wish they get liberation from the hellish *samsāra*, and hence I instruct them.

O Rāma! If you meet a *Paramhansa* saint or *sādhu* (ascetic) who possesses at least one quality, accept it. Mind not his fault but accept his merit only.’
(*Shri Yoga Vasishtha Mahārāmāyaṇa, Nirvāṇa Prakaraṇa*)



आकल्पजन्मकोटीनां यज्ञव्रततपः क्रियाः ।
ताः सर्वाः सफला देवि गुरुसन्तोषमात्रतः ॥

‘O Devi, by the mere satisfaction of the Guru, all penances, sacrifices, austerities, etc., practiced in crores of births, in an entire *Kalpa* (one creation cycle) become fruitful.’

– Lord Shiva (*Shri Guru-Gītā*)



Service to Guru is the greatest Sadhana!

Read page 34



Service through Social Media



Massaging Guruji's feet is not the only form of doing *Guru-Sevā*. Running a *Bāla Sanskāra Kendra*, organising programmes to provide free meals to the poor are also forms of *Guru-Sevā*. Those performing the service of publishing and sending *Rishi Prasad*, *Rishi Darshan*, *Lok Kalyān Setu*, other spiritual books, and satsang to people, those running campaigns for elevating young men and women are also doing *Guru-Sevā*. – Pujya Bapuji

Gurudev saved me from drowning
in the ocean of life and death 13

The Miracle of Having
Darshan of a Great Man 6

Gurudev saved me from the
enticement of a nymph 7

'Your real duty is verily this!'

– Pujya Bapuji



Pujya Bapuji engrossed
in Self-Bliss in His youth

‘O supreme well-wisher, Supreme Self of the essential nature of supreme knowledge, Consciousness, Bliss! He who reposes in You, is always in a joyful and festive mood; he attains ever new bliss. Only they, who worship you as consciousness, attain ever-new *jnāna*, ever-new Love, and ever-new blessedness.’

Everyone, for their own selfish interest, will bind you with some or other duty; however, SatGuru, making you aware of your real duty, will tell you that – ‘You are free from the stain of ignorance, self-luminous, consciousness. You are eternal, permanent. Pleasure and pain, childhood, youth, and old-age are all non-eternal. You are an immortal, undivided form of God. Merge your limited knowledge with that of God, and your limited ego with the ‘I-ness’ of God. Merge your (finite) knowledge with that of God, your ‘I-ness’ with that of God, and your eternity with that of God. The body is subject to birth and death but You, exist even after death. The cosmos is created and gets destroyed, but *Paramātmā* remains ever-existent. You are *Atman* and your being is indivisible from the *Paramātmā*. Just as a gold-ornament is no different from gold, and a wave is no different from the ocean, and the pot-ether is no different from the ether of outer space. O man! You are no different from the Supreme Self, Pure, Consciousness-Nature. Realise your Self-Nature – your real duty is verily this.’

आत्मसुखात् परं सुखं न विद्यते । आत्मलाभात् परं लाभं न विद्यते । आत्मज्ञानात् परं ज्ञानं न विद्यते ।

There is no happiness superior to Self-Bliss, no benefit greater than that of the Self, no knowledge higher than Self-knowledge.

When the individual soul is blessed with *satsang*-discourses, along with the company of a man who has attained that Self-God, it attains peace in the Supreme Self by treading the path free of obstacles.

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Owner : Sant Shri Asharamji Ashram

Publisher : Dharmesh Jagram Singh Chauhan

Printer : Raghavendra Subhashchandra Gada

Place of Publication : Sant Shri Asharamji Ashram, Motera, Sant Shri Asharamji Bapu Ashram Marg, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad-380005 (Gujarat).

Printed At : Hari Om Manufactureres, Kunja Matralion, Paonta Sahib, Sirmour (H.P.) - 173025.

Editor : Shrinivas R. Kulkarni

Co-Editor : Dr. P.K. Makwana

Patron: Shri Surendranath Bhargava, Former Chief Justice, Sikkim High Court, Former Chairperson, Human Rights Commission (Assam & Manipur), Former Justice, Rajasthan High Court

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In This Issue...



- * Unprecedented showering of grace by a powerful Yogi 4
- * 12 rules for quick success in sadhana 5
- * The Miracle of Having Darshan of a Great Man 6
- * Gurudev saved me from the enticement of a nymph 7
- * Blessed is such an omnipotent SatGuru and incredible are his lilas 9
- * The grace of Guru worked like medicine – Brijesh Tiwari 10
- * The secret of Nāga Panchami 11
- * How to celebrate Raksha-Bandhan 12
- * Gurudev saved me from drowning in the ocean of birth and death 13
- * Total literacy in four letters 17
- * Puja Bapuji's tremendous willpower! 18
- * A golden chapter added to the series of Yoga-Lilas 19
- * Now what other miracle do you want? – Shri Ashok Singhal 20
- * A miracle of Shaktipāta 21
- * One should spare some time from activities to attend Satsang 22
- * The Aura of Puja Bapuji – A Mystery for Scientists! 23
- * If you find a kind friend SatGuru... – Sant Bhole Bābā 24
- * My life turned in the right direction by His gracious glance 25
- * ...And the entire body became relaxed and purified 26
- * Miracle during the Kandahar plane-hijacking! – Rakesh Kumar Sharma 27
- * From my death bed to the 'Rishi Prasad' office 28
- * Why is the holy fig tree important? 29
- * Benedictory experiential words of Saints 30
- * The most wholesome, healthy 'Barley' 31
- * Service to Guru is the greatest sadhana! 34

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How to celebrate *Raksha-Bandhan* – Pujya Bapuji

Rakshā-Bandhan is a festival of Indian culture which strengthens sacred *bhāvas* with the feeling of kinship and a thread of affection. A sister visits her brother on *Rakshā-Bandhan* to materialise her resolve to protect her brother. Even though the thread of *Rākhi* is small, it is charged with amazing power by the resolve of the sister. The more selfless, innocent, and pious the resolve is, the more powerful it becomes.

The sister ties a *Rākhi* thread around the wrist of her brother so that he may overcome all obstacles and hurdles that come throughout the year. She applies a *tilak* on his forehead: ‘May my brother’s third eye be active, and may he be saved from the quagmire of sense pleasures. Sense pleasures cause disease and fear. May my brother become a *Yogi* not a *bhogi* (an enjoyer). May my brother have an auspicious outlook. May good betide him.’ Good wishes work wonders. The Creator has blessed the resolve of a sister and the efforts of a brother with the power to trample hurdles and obstacles under their feet.

As well as satisfying his sister with a gift, a brother takes the responsibility of solving all the problems that may come in her life.

Have a broader outlook

I wish to say this to brothers and sisters: ‘Do not be limited to your home. Sister! You are a woman of Bhārat (India). And Brother! You are a man of Bhārat. ‘Bhārat’ – ‘*Bhā*’ means wisdom and ‘*Rat*’ means engrossed in it. You are a resident of such a country,

so have a broader outlook.’

God has given magnanimity and forbearance to women, but when she becomes narrow-minded, she gets blamed for being the root cause of disputes. This is a blemish on women. If women instill the greatness of Indian culture in their minds with determination, they can transform even an animal like (non-virtuous) husband into *Pashupati* (one who can control the animal instincts).

Brothers should not be narrow-minded

either. Not being limited to one’s own sister(s), consider a neighbour girl also your sister. A brother should also protect a neighbour sister and the sister should also wish good of the neighbour brother. This *bhāva* of mutual good should be propagated in society.

The day of *Rakshā-Bandhan* is a day to wear a new sacred thread (*janeu*) and make an auspicious resolve. I would even extend the concept and urge to set the highest auspicious goal of life on this day. There will be no exaggeration in considering this. The full moon day following Guru-Purnimā is *Rakshā-Bandhan*. Disciples make an auspicious resolve for Gurudev, ‘May my Gurudev’s divine works expand more and more.’ and Gurudev makes a resolve for the spiritual progress of the *sādhaka* disciples. So, celebrate such an auspicious day also by making a resolve to be helpful to one another in the spiritual realm so that society may get the chance to reach the state of *Paramātmā*. →



***Rakshā-Bandhan*: 11th August**

A golden chapter added to the series of *Yoga-Lilas*

This incident dates back to 29th August 2012 when Pujya Bapuji departed from Morbi to Godhra by helicopter. On reaching Godhra, when the helicopter was about 100 feet above the ground, the pilot lost control of the helicopter... and guess what! Instead of landing directly on the ground, the helicopter nose-dived to the ground and within a few seconds, literally shattered into pieces.

It fell with a bang on the side where Bapuji was sitting and overturned. The fan on top of the helicopter broke into pieces and was scattered in the air across an area of several square feet. The front portion of the Helicopter hit the ground hard and the rear was flung into the sky and the pieces became scattered. The helicopter dangerously overturned, burying the side where Bapuji was sitting. At that very moment a huge fire broke out in the rear side of the helicopter (near the petrol tank). Petrol in a helicopter is not normal petrol. It is white petrol and is considered highly inflammable and it was running like tap water.

Where even a spark can prove to be highly explosive; but here was a scene of flames coexisting with a part of the petrol tank; this could definitely have been called the Eighth Wonder of the World!

Suddenly the fire was extinguished. How did the fire extinguish? Who extinguished? Does a helicopter have such a system that, when it meets with an accident, the fire gets automatically extinguished? No, there is no such technology.

What sort of miraculous power is this? When the helicopter crashed in front

of everyone's eyes, there was only one question in everyone's mind, what would be the condition of Pujya Bapuji sitting inside? Because the side on which Bapuji was sitting overturned and shattered into pieces.

Witnesses said that after a few moments of the helicopter crash, Bapuji came out of the helicopter from the front side.

As soon as Bapuji came out from the crashed parts of the helicopter, he gestured to his devotees standing around, that he was all right. Then Bapuji roared 'Hari Om' in a blissful manner then all the devotees present there also chanted joyously '*Hari Om Bapuji... Hari Om Bapuji...*'

Like what is stated in the Purāṇas, Lord Krishna laughingly and playfully came out from the mouth of Aghāsura, a mighty Asura, similarly Bapuji with His Yogic power defeated Aghāsura in the form of a helicopter crash. History is the witness that no one has ever escaped alive from such a horrific accident, but here, none of the passengers travelling with Bapuji were harmed, in fact none of them were even scratched.

Regarding the miracles narrated in the Purāṇas, we have only heard about them, but this incident is real and was captured on camera and has now been written into History in golden letters.

Even after such a major helicopter crash, Bapuji arrived at the Godhra *Satsang-Pandāl* at the scheduled time and the programme was completed successfully.

It is difficult to believe stories based on hearsay, but who can deny the truth that is clearly visible in the video?

Helicopter made of heavy and strong metal parts was shattered into pieces while soft body of Bapuji sitting on the front seat was completely healthy, fit and fine! There is a saying, “People do salutations to miracles!” And after witnessing this incident, even atheist people could not help singing the glories of God and saints! The media of the country and abroad also praised this miraculous event.

This incident has added a new chapter in the yogic pastimes of this Self-realized great man, which has been inscribed in golden letters in the history of the world.

Everyone was surprised to know this

– **Former President of India**
Shrimati Pratibhā Pātil



Many Saints, Mahants, religious leaders, politicians and industrialists of India and foreign countries started to make calls to get information about Bapuji. While enquiring by telephone about Bapuji’s well-being, former President of India, Shrimati Pratibhā Pātil said that a number of high ranking Air Force Officers, upon being asked what was the reason for all passengers being safe and sound after this terrible accident? They replied unanimously. It must have been a miracle performed by Bapuji because there was no question of anyone escaping alive from such a horrific accident.

Now what other miracle do you want?

– **Shri Ashok Singhal Patron and Former International President of VHP**

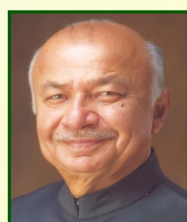
“The miracle of Bapuji coming out



absolutely unscathed from a terrible helicopter accident is seen by the whole world. What other miracles do atheists and slanderers want to see? Now they should refrain from their dirty tricks.”

This was no less than a miracle

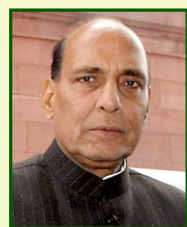
– **Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde,**
Former Union Home Minister and
Leader of the House in Lok Sabha



“The helicopter in which Asharam Bapu and his followers were travelling, crash landed with a bang after losing control. It broke into several pieces. Bapuji was sitting on the front seat. Yet Bapuji, the pilot and all other passengers came out unscathed. I think it is no less than a miracle. Bapuji’s dedication to the service for welfare of the masses is well known.”

Pujya Bapuji possesses Divine Powers

– **Shri Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister of India, former Senior BJP MP**



“I bow my head and offer hundreds of salutations at the lotus feet of Param Pujya Sant Shri Asharamji Bapu. Despite meeting such a terrible helicopter accident, Bapuji and his co-passengers were not hurt at all. Our Pujya Bapuji possesses Divine Powers. It was the miraculous feat of the same power that God has bestowed on him. It was by virtue of that power that Bapuji and those accompanying him remained unscathed. I have never seen such an accident in my →

One should spare some time from activities to attend Satsang



“I have come here to pay my regards to Pujya Bapuji... to listen to His benedictory words... Only when some religious merit is ready to bear fruit, are you blessed with the *darshan* and company of saints and holy men.

Travelling to every nook and cranny of the country and instilling good values in people all over, is such a national duty of the highest order that it has survived our country till this day; and it is on these very grounds that we are dreaming of a bright future... and to materialise that

very dream, we are mustering strength and devotion.

Pujya Bapuji, by travelling all over the country, has been blowing the conch shell to awaken us and instill good values in us. Additionally, He has been showing us our ancient cultural heritage, that we had almost sinfully forgotten, by applying the collyrium of knowledge to our eyes. Bapuji's spiritual discourses have infused great strength in me. One should spare some time from one's activities to attend *satsang*.”

– **Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee,**
Former Prime Minister of India

I have heard Pujya Bapuji's Satsang in many places



“I have come to pay my obeisance at Pujya Bapuji's feet. I believe that there is no force in the world greater than devotion, and everyone can become a devotee. I pray that all of us get blessed and empowered to become true devotees. I believe our biggest wealth is the blessings received from Saints. I have heard Bapuji's *satsang* in Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and many places in Uttar Pradesh. His mass *satsang* programmes have created a new awareness among the people of the nation which has created a new impact.

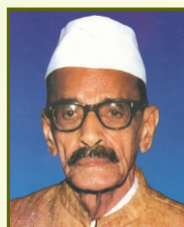
I have been fortunate to get Bapuji's blessings and affection from when I was an unknown person. Bapuji's words are charged with yogic power.

Pujya Bapuji! You have been doing penance untiringly to spread the cultural-heritage of *Rishi-Paramparā* all over the country and the world. You have been offering each and every moment of your life to the altar of this fire-sacrifice for human-welfare that has been going on for ages. I

wish that the public and I may - keep walking in the light of the divine flame of values (*Saṁskārās*) that has emerged from this sacrifice. My life is sustained only by the blessings of saints. I have come here so that my license gets renewed. Pujya Bapuji blessed me, and gave an opportunity to greet you all. Hence I am indebted to Bapuji.”

– **Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, the then Chief Minister of Gujarat**

Today I feel blessed...



“The divine *darshan* of Pujya Swamiji and his experiential words has greatly influenced me. The body gets influenced by the gracious glance of such a saint and by hearing the words of such saints, the mind also starts treading the path of sanctity and holiness. Today I feel blessed to be able to get the *darshan* of Maharajshri.”

– **Late Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda,**
Ex-Prime Minister of India

Miracle during the Kandahar plane-hijacking!



On 24 December 1999, an Indian Airlines plane was hijacked and taken to Kandahar (Afghanistan).

On December 27, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji sent another plane to get this plane released, in which doctors, engineers and members from the ministry were sent. I was with them too.

On 28 December, the hijacked plane went dark due to a technical fault and the hijackers went insane. They declared: 'First light up our plane otherwise we will start killing the passengers.'

Firstly, there was the fear of the hijackers, secondly, there was no light onboard and thirdly, the hijackers were threatening to kill the passengers. Time passed from morning to evening. The situation became quite tense as no one from our team was willing to go and work inside the plane.

But I consented to work in that plane after getting permission (mentally) from Gurudev. My companions were stunned! I went on my mission while chanting the Guru-mantra given by Gurudev. I began ascending the steps of the hijacked plane, and as soon as I reached the last step, I encountered two hijackers. Both had a revolver in one hand and a grenade in the other. They frisked me.

The first thing they found on me was a pen and key ring with Gurudev's photo, seeing which they were shocked and asked, "Whose photo is this?"

I said: "My Gurudev's." His second question: "What is his name?" I told the name of Gurudev and answered all other questions they asked. Their stance softened somewhat.

I worked on the plane for an hour and fixed the technical fault and the plane was lit. For the whole time I was on the plane, it seemed that Gurudev was with me and getting my work done, while at the same time the hijacker stood pointing his pistol at me and telling me again and again 'I will shoot you if you make any tricky attempt... If the light doesn't come on I will blow you up with a bomb.'

When I safely came down from the plane, my colleagues were looking at me as if I was a ghost.

On January 1st, I returned to Delhi with the hijacked plane along with my team. My wife and children meditated solely on Gurudev until I came back. I bow to my great Guru again a hundred times.

– Rakesh Kumar Sharma,
Retired Manager, Air India,
Palam, New Delhi.
Mobile: 7836014080

Drop of Nectar

– Pujya Bapuji

Though Guru-Mantra looks like an ordinary word, or a group of words, it is connected with the stream of SatGuru's grace, divine grace.

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WPP No. 12/21-23

(Issued by CPMG UK, valid upto 31-12-2023)

Posting at Dehradun G.P.O. between
1st to 17th of every month.

Date of Publication: 1st July 2022



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Pune

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Owner: Sant Shri Asharamji Ashram Publisher: Dharmesh Jagram Singh Chauhan Printer: Raghavendra Subhashchandra Gada Place of Publication: Sant Shri Asharamji Ashram, Motera, Sant Shri Asharamji Bapu Ashram Marg, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad- 380005 (Gujarat). Printed At: Hari Om Manufactures, Kunja Matralion, Paonta Sahib, Sirmour (H.P.) - 173025. Editor: Shrinivas R. Kulkarni