

Students' Special

# RISHI PRASAD

## Four Goals of a Student and Six Keys to Success 5



Puja Sant Shri Asharamji Bapu



Success in exams



Parents' blessings



A strong and Healthy body



Living in accordance with Satsang

A person possessing the virtues of industriousness, courage, fortitude, intelligence, strength, and achievements receives divine help.

Spirituality is the root of a nation's true progress 20





# Be Firmly Determined !

The first and foremost quintessence, derived from introspective self-study of the Upanishads is – firm determination. Our present condition is merely the outcome of our past sankalpas (resolves).

As per Shri Yoga-Vāsishṭha Mahārāmāyaṇa (Utpatti-prakarāṇa, Chapter 70, Verse 30):

**सर्वः स्वसंकल्पवशाल्लघुर्भवति वा गुरुः।** ‘Everyone becomes either great or small based on their sankalpas.’

Sankalpas of the base type can make one lustful, angry, greedy, or even a thief, dacoit, or a murderer; while sat-sankalpa (pure will, or true resolve) can awaken one’s dormant powers, and thus, establish one in the greatest of the great – Paramātmā (the Supreme Self).

In the Chhāndogya Upanishad, there is an account of Mahidāsa Aitareya. He was conducting a fire-sacrifice (yajna). His health was impaired. People saw him, and said, ‘Stop the Yajna. The illness you have contracted will kill you.’ Mahidāsa, who was Self-realized and strong-willed, and was well aware of the fact that – **ऋतुमयः पुरुषः।** Man is made up of his sankalpas. What a person wills in his present life, he becomes when he leaves this world.’ (Chhāndogya Upanishad: 3.14.1) Confidently, he said “O my foe in the form of disease, I will not die of any attack you make.”

The strong-willed Mahidāsa thus lived a hundred and sixteen years. (Chhāndogya Upanishad: 3.16.7) The Vedas proclaim:

**उद्यानं ते पुरुष नावयानम्।** ‘O man, upward and onward is your path in life, not downward.’

(The Atharva Veda: Kāṇḍa 8, Sukta 1, Mantra 6)

This means: O men! Rise, move forward, and elevate yourself! Do not fall, do not head towards decline. Keep marching ahead on your path of duty with courage, patience, and solemnity. A resolute person will undoubtedly find success in any field he enters.

The secret of the success of the greatest men of all time, in history is – self-confidence and firm determination. A firmly determined person does not fear obstacles but keeps moving forward with self-confidence. As per the Manusmriti (2.3):

**संकल्पमूलः कामो वै यज्ञाः संकल्पसम्भवाः। व्रतानि यमधर्माश्च सर्वे संकल्पजाः स्मृताः ॥**

‘Desire has its root in Thought; Sacrifices proceed from Thought; Vows and Restraints – all these have been described as originating in Thought.’

All firmly determined personalities, like – Bhakta Prahlāda, child Dhruva, King Harishchandra, Āchārya Chāṇakya, Sant Tulsidās ji, Shri Ramaṇa Maharshi ji, Sāin Shri Lilāshāhji Mahārāj, Sant Shri Asharamji Bapu, and others – achieved their goals only through unwavering determination. Once you make an auspicious resolution, do not let any doubts or second thoughts arise regarding it. This will strengthen your resolve. This power of resolve is what leads a person to success. The entire power of resolve originates from nothing but the eternal consciousness Atman (the Self). Hence, one should always be centred in the Self.





## Bhagavan Shri Rama Appreciates the Virtues of Others

When Hanumānji went to ally Rāmachandraji and Sugrīva, Sugrīva opened his heart to the Lord and guilelessly expressed his grief and inability to Him. The Lord was overwhelmed with compassion at the frankness of Sugrīva. Then Lord Rāma took a pledge while consoling Sugrīva:

सुनु सुग्रीव मारिहउँ बालिहि एकहिं बान ।

“Listen, Sugrīva. I will kill Bāli with a single arrow.” (Kishkindhā Kānda: 6)

“Listen, Sugrīva! I will kill Bāli with a single arrow, you go to Kishkindhā and challenge Bāli to a single combat.” Sugrīva looked at the Lord’s face with astonishment. He said, “O Lord! Who will kill Bāli, You or I?”

The Lord said, “I will kill him.”

“O Lord! Then why are you sending me to challenge him?”

“You will fight, and I will kill.”

The Lord’s words indicate that – ‘The *jīva* (individual soul) has to make self-effort. To give the fruit of it is in Lord’s power.’

Lakshmaṇa ji asked Lord Rāma, “O Lord! After hearing the whole story of Sugrīva, it seems to me that fleeing from the battle is his nature. Why did you make friends with him?”

Rāma ji smiled and said, “Lakshmaṇa, also look at his positive side. You think that Sugrīva is weak and Bāli is strong, but when Sugrīva ran away, and Bāli chased him, he couldn’t catch Sugrīva. One should know the art of running away so perfectly that the Bāli of egotism shouldn’t be able to

capture him. And how expert and proficient is Sugrīva in the art of obtaining secret information! He obtained the information that Bāli can go anywhere except Mount Rishyamūka. No other person can be more suitable than him in terms of finding the whereabouts of Sitā.”

When Sugrīva fled from the battle upon being defeated by Bāli, Lord Rāma garlanded him with flowers. Lakshmaṇa ji asked, “O Lord, you have changed the law of Creation. We have seen that the winner is garlanded, and not the loser; but you...!”

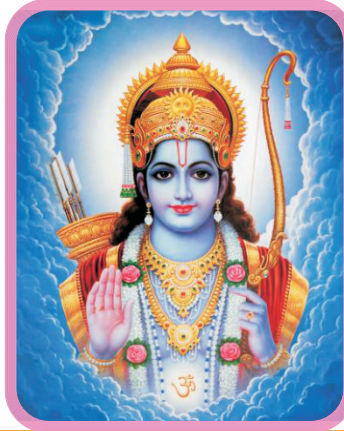
The Lord smiled and said, “The winner is undoubtedly honoured in the world, but I garland the one who loses.” The intended meaning of Lord Rāma’s words is – Sugrīva is

well-aware of his inabilities. Some people become

frustrated upon realizing their inabilities, but those who, knowing their inability, completely surrender themselves to Almighty Lord or Guru, attain the highest goal of life.

Lakshmaṇa ji asked, “O Lord! What forms of devotion out of the nine do you find in Sugrīva?”

The Lord said, “I find the first form as well the ninth in him. ***The first form of devotion is fellowship with saints.*** He has attained the association of a saint like Hanumān. ***The ninth form of devotion demands that one should be guileless and straight in one’s dealings with everybody.*** Sugrīva is simple and pure-hearted. He told his life story without hiding his fleeing, defeat and weakness.”



Shri Rama Navami: 6<sup>th</sup> April

## Wherein my Gurudev is established? – Pujya Bapuji



My respect and devotion for my Gurudev (Sāin Shri Lilāshāhji Mahārāj) continued to increase from my initial days of being with Him as I began to realize His spiritual State of Being.

You will evolve spiritually in proportion to your understanding of the State of Being of your Guru. This does not mean that you begin to observe – ‘What does the Guru eat? What does the Guru drink? Who is conversing with the Guru?...’ If you continue to observe the external behaviour of Guru, your faith will not last long. One, who considers Guru as a physical body, or considers only the physical body of Guru as Guru, can never understand the State of Being of Guru. Guru’s precepts will click as and when you realize His Divine State of Being. Guru’s precept is Guru’s realization (of the Self); it is Guru’s heart; and Guru’s State of Being.

### This is nothing but His Compassionate Grace

As a householder, I kept pictures of Lord Shiva, Lord Krishna, and Mother Kālī in my home, and would meditate on the same. However, when I met SatGuru, I don’t know how I suddenly developed a natural attraction in my heart towards Him. If you go to the place where I practiced intense *sādhanā* for seven years, and open my *sādhanā*-room, you will find only my Gurudev’s Holy picture there. By practice of meditation on my Gurudev’s picture, I would get very close to Him, very close to His State of Being. However much I was distanced from Him physically, I would

come so close to Him emotionally that I developed His virtues and received His emotional support and sublime inspirations beyond my imagination. Dear Brethren! I had never delivered a Satsang discourse in the past; nor had my father or grandfather ever done so. My Guru sent a message to me: ‘Deliver Satsang discourses’. I was not educated beyond three classes in primary school; how could I deliver a discourse to people? But I followed what my Guru had instructed. And the train of satsang-discourses began; and it still goes on and on... The whole world is witnessing how well it is going on.

गुरुकृपा हि केवलं शिष्यस्य परं मंगलम् ।

“Guru’s grace alone brings about the supreme welfare of the disciple.”

Practice of penance can bring good to one. Boons obtained from any god, goddess, or God can bring good to one. But supreme welfare cannot be attained even by a boon secured from God. If and only if one beholds God in the form of Guru and gets established in the Supreme Self, the Ultimate Truth, one attains supreme welfare.

ध्यानमूलं गुरोर्मूर्तिः पूजामूलं गुरोः पदम् ।

मन्त्रमूलं गुरोर्वाक्यं मोक्षमूलं गुरोः कृपा ॥

“The background of thought for meditation is the form of the Guru, the image for worship is the Guru’s Feet, the sacred syllable (Mantra) for japa is the words of the Guru, and the cause of Moksha is the grace of Guru.”

Would any parents want to keep their children subdued forever? Parents want their children to be greater than themselves. Similarly, SatGuru would also like His

Special article on  
24<sup>th</sup> March:  
Birthday of  
Bhagavatpāda Sāin  
Shri Lilāshāhji  
Mahārāj



## Who says that the Lord doesn't appear...?

This year, the birth anniversary of Hanumān ji falls on 12<sup>th</sup> April. As expounded by Pujya Bapuji in His nectarine satsang-discourses:

A male child was born to a Brahmin family in a village near Jaunpur (U.P). He was named Rāmlagan. His parents were devotees of God. His mother taught him how to do *japa* of the divine Name and narrated pleasant life-stories of the Lord.

**12<sup>th</sup> April : Birth anniversary of Hanumanji**

When the child was 8-years old, one night 10-15 dacoits broke into their house. His father, Pundit Satya Nārāyaṇa ji was not at home.

At that moment, Rāmalagan's mother was narrating to him the story of Hanumān ji burning down the city of Lankā. Seeing the dacoits, the mother became frightened, but the child said fearlessly, "Mother! Why are you afraid? Look, Hanumān ji is burning the city of Lankā right now. Why don't you call out to Him? The moment you call out to Him, He'll surely come to rescue us." But the mother was trembling with fear. She had no trust that Hanumān ji would respond to her call for help. Seeing his mother speechless, Rāmalagan himself cried, "Hanumān ji! O Hanumān ji! Look, who are these people who have entered our house wielding *lāthis* (sticks used as weapons)! My mother is frightened. Come; come soon; please postpone the burning of Lankā."

As soon as the child cried out for help, a huge monkey came in leaps and bounds and slapped two-three dacoits so hard that they fell down. The monkey mutilated the noses and ears of a few other dacoits. He pulled the beard of the chief dacoit so hard

that he screamed and fainted. The dacoits could not hit the monkey with even a single blow of their sticks. The neighbours rushed there upon hearing the tumult of the shouting and screaming dacoits. As they saw the crowd gathering, the dacoits lifted their chief onto their shoulders and fled. The huge monkey also disappeared.

The child Rāmalagan said with a laugh, "Mother! Did you see? Hanumān ji came, immediately responding to my cry, and slapped those rogues so hard that they fled." The mother hugged her child. The entire village reverberated with the chants of 'victory to Bajrangbali (Hanumān ji)'. It seemed as if the unwavering faith, like that of devotee Prahlāda, had become victorious once again.

As the child Rāmalagan grew up, his devotional love and dispassion also grew. When he was only 19 years old, he lost both his parents. Henceforth, the fire of his dispassion became all the more intense. Rāmalagan was initiated into a Mantra by a saint and engaged himself firmly in devotional practice. Later he became a famous saint, Sant Rāma Awadhā Dās ji. Many times during his life, he had darshan of Hanumān ji.

The Lord definitely listens and answers a sincere prayer and the calls of His devotees. He immediately comes in any form to protect His devotees.

Hanumān ji is the foremost among the wise (Jnānis). He is an ardent lover of divine Knowledge. When Lord Rama was immensely pleased with Hanumān ji, he sought nothing but Self-Knowledge from

**(Continued on page: 19...)**





# For Students



## If You Don't Withdraw from This, You'll Suffer for countless births. — Pujya Babuji

A wise person is identified by their ability to discern when to associate with a person, and when to remain in action and when to retire from it.

A real-life incident comes to mind. During a conversation, a senior Central Govt. officer was asked by a staff member from his department, “Sir, if the government is the same for all of us, and all of us are its employees. Why is your salary so high and ours so low?”

The officer replied, “My dear, knowing when to act and when to withdraw, when to expand any activity and when to withdraw from it, is something that requires intelligence.”

The employee asked, “So are you saying we are fools?”

“No, I’m not saying that. But each of us has our own level of understanding. Let me show you a practical example. I’ll place my hand firmly on the table, and you punch it as hard as you can.”

“Sure, I can do that!”

He raised his fist and swung it with all his might. But just before the punch could land, the officer swiftly pulled his hand away, and the employee’s hand hit the table hard, you may imagine the pain it would have caused him. The condition of that poor fellow’s hand was as good as that of a boiled and pressed aubergine. The

officer remained silent as the employee nursed his injured hand.

“What did you just do?” the employee asked in shock.

“I was demonstrating,” the officer replied, “how important it is to know when

to act and when to withdraw, where to expand activity and where to withdraw from it. This ability to make a timely decision is more valued. So a higher salary is given to them.”

Similarly, just so that your mind doesn’t commit a similar mistake we must also know when to engage our mind in the world and when to withdraw the mind from it. That poor employee suffered only one blow to his hand, but we, as worldly beings, experience countless blows, day and night. Why is that so? That is because we don’t withdraw. The lover abandons the loved one, yet the abandoned lover remains crying and lamenting, ‘how can I live without you...?’ Wealth vanishes, but out of foolishness, we cry – ‘I am undone without you...?’ If we don’t learn to withdraw from this attachment, whether to wealth, body, or objects, then we, as individual souls, will continue to endure pain for countless births! Be prudent regarding where and when to engage your mind and when to withdraw it. Reflect upon the Self, acquiring the wisdom that,

### Curious Context





# Life Said, "Do Not Fear, I Am Still Smiling..."

(Nectarine words from Pujya Bapuji's  
Divine Teachings)

In life, many obstacles will come, and countless challenges will arise. There will be numerous attractions and repulsions, moments of fear and terrifying situations. Many incidents will occur that may dishearten you, and there will be circumstances that seem crushing. However, the one who gets the chance to hear *satsang* (spiritual discourse), carries with them righteous inspiration, divine courage, and an inner voice. Challenges may arise from the external world, but listen carefully to the voice that comes from within – the voice of the soul.

**Death said to me, "I am coming to meet you..."** You may witness death hovering over you, and think, "I am going to die." Doctors may say you have contracted this or that disease. **Death said to me, "I am coming to meet you..."** But if you have tasted the nectar of *satsang*, if you carry spiritual wisdom within, life itself will speak from deep inside you, **"Do not fear, I am still smiling..."** Life will speak from within, 'I am the immortal Self. Your bodies died millions of times before, yet you came out unscathed. If death comes again, what harm will it do to you? I am forever smiling.' You will hear this inner voice: 'I am the witness of death; I am immortal Self.'

**Death said to me,**

**"I am coming to meet you."**

**Life said, "Fear not; I am still smiling."**

**With a courageous heart, I marched  
on the path to my goal,**

**Wielding the weapon of action, I**

**faced the challenges head-on.  
Defeat spoke to me, "I am  
coming to bring tears to your eyes."  
Failure said, "I am coming  
to bring tears to your eyes."  
Victory said to me, "Do not fear; I  
am coming to bring a smile for you."**

The soul said, "Do not fear, my child, my beloved! My good son! Thoughts of *satsang* said, "Do not fear; I am coming to bring a smile to your face. March ahead." Humanity wept, and the righteous mourned. They were saddened and grieved. Meanwhile, the wicked, the villains and the corrupt celebrated, thinking, 'This is *Kaliyuga*, where those who commit deception, fraud and treachery appear happy, and the good people appear shedding tears.' But the *satsang* of Self-knowledge and the pilgrim of Self-knowledge bring quite a new message.

**The darkness spoke too,**

**"I am coming as darkness."**

**The dark night of the new moon**

**said, "I am coming as darkness."**

**But the full moon day said, "Fear  
not, I am bringing the moonlight,**

**Do not fear; I am bringing**

**the moonlight of the Self."**

*Satsang* gives the message that – No matter how dense the dark cloud of ignorance is, Self-realized great men, and the shastras give the light of Self-knowledge. We should regard them deeply and reap their benefits. They shouldn't be disregarded.

**Humanity shed tears,**

**and cruelty rejoiced.**

**Now man alone incites**

**war amongst men.**



## Message of good wishes



**Shri Santosh Pandey, Member of Parliament, Rajnandgaon:** “‘Parents’ Worship Day’, inspired by Sant Shri Asharamji Bapu, which is being celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> February, is not only capable of making the youth of our country moral and ethical, but also of making them virtuous, famous, long-lived, and successful – by way of granting them the blessings of parents and divine love free from passion. It is guiding the misled youth onto the right path and bringing about a revolutionary change in society by restoring the shattered family bonds and family structure and enriching familial love. I urge all countrymen to actively participate in this noble initiative.”



**Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, U.P. :** “I am extremely pleased to know that your organization is conducting ‘Parents’ Worship Day’ on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This initiative, aimed at awakening respect and reverence for parents among children, and instilling values in them, is truly commendable.”



**Shri Rajendra Shukla, Deputy Chief Minister, M.P.:** “The tradition of celebrating ‘Parents’ Worship Day’ on February 14<sup>th</sup> every year, which has been carried out by your organization for the past 19 years, has greatly contributed to the highest progress of children and the youth. This day has brightened the character of millions of young boys and girls and has filled the lives of their parents with joy and delight.”

**Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Transport:** “I am glad to know that your organization has been organizing welfare-oriented festivals on a global level for the past several years. The tradition of celebrating February 14<sup>th</sup> as ‘Parents’ Worship Day’ is indeed a commendable initiative.”



**Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises:** “I am happy to learn that under the guidance of your organization, the campaign to celebrate ‘Parents’ Worship Day’ on February 14<sup>th</sup> is being conducted this year as well, just like in past years. I extend my best wishes for its successful organization.”



**Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Governor, Jharkhand:** “It is a matter of great joy that in order to instil a sense of respect and reverence for parents among children, cultivating good values in them, and to ensure their brighter future, your organization is celebrating a new festival, ‘Parents’ Worship Day’, on February 14<sup>th</sup>. I extend my heartfelt congratulations on this noble initiative.”



**Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Education Minister, M.P.:** “‘Parents’ Worship Day’ being organized by your organization on February 14<sup>th</sup>, has provided the youth with the right direction and has fostered an atmosphere of love and harmony within the families.”



**Thinking is allowed, but think in such a way (by means of Self-enquiry) that all thoughts come to an end. – Pujya Bapuji**



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# Parents' Worship Day

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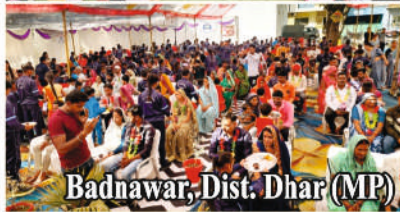
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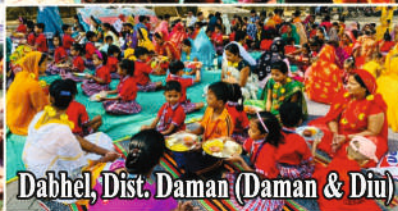
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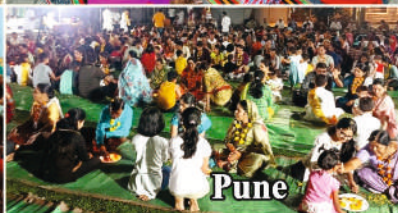
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Rishi Prasad



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