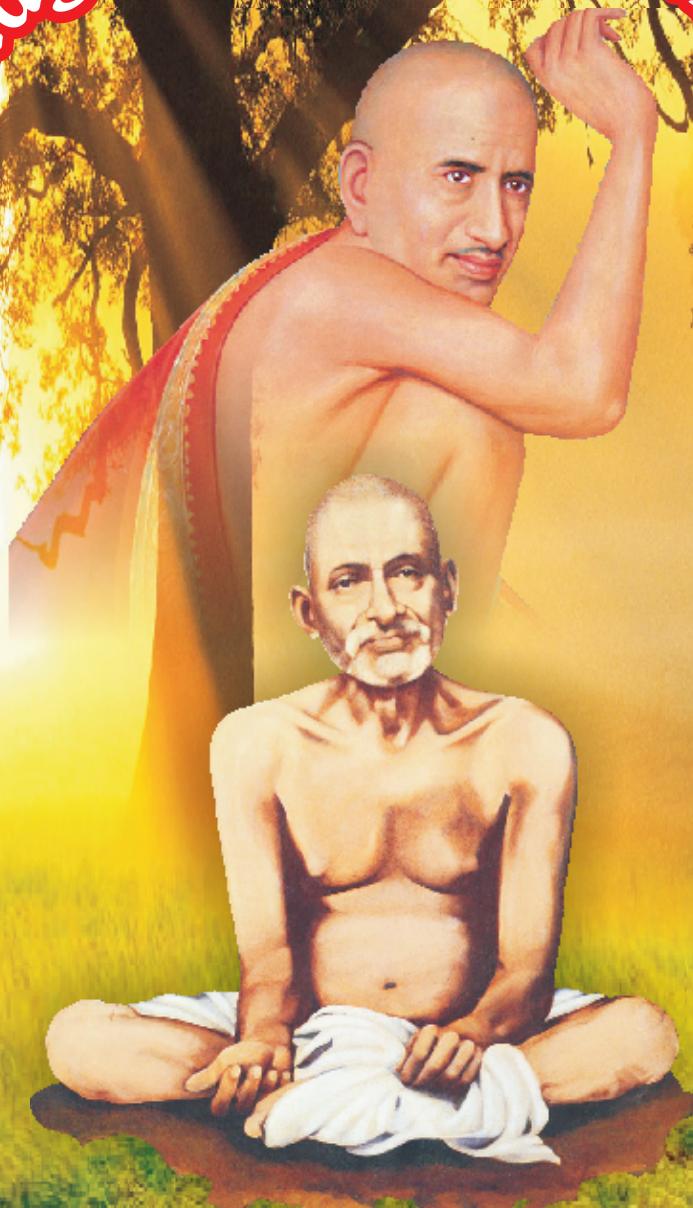


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Sadguru Shree Gajanan

(Short Stories)



|| Gan Gan Ganaat Bote ||



**Anant Koti Brahmand Nayak
Maharajadhiraj Yogiraj
Parabrahma Sachidanand
Bhakta Pratipalak
Shegaon Nivasi Samarth Sadguru
Shree Gajanan Maharaj
ki JAI !**

॥ Shree Gajanan Maharaj Prasanna ॥

॥ Gan Gan Ganaat Bote ॥

**Sadguru
Shree Gajanan**

(Short Stories)

A Tribute....

by Manjiri R. Gokhale

PREFACE

Our land has been blessed with many saints and sages for thousands of years. We have read about Shree Sant Dnyaneshwar, Sant Tukaram, Sant Ramdas, Sant Eknath and many more, who brought God closer to common man. Sant Shree Gajanan Maharaj from Shegaon is one of the great saints from this congregation. These saints are God's incarnation, full of sanctity .I consider myself fortunate that he inspired me to depict his real life stories that highlight the worship of the devotees and also guide us to lead a meaningful life.

I am very grateful to Shree Shankar Pandit, the revered author of the book 'Jai Gajanan' & to those who helped me to transform my previous marathi book 'Goshtiroop Gajanan' into English.

I own the drawbacks if any & beg your saintly pardon for the same.

॥ॐ नमो भगवते गजनाय ॥

Sant Dasganu Maharaj, the great writer of the treatise "Shree Gajanan Vijay" described all the incidents in his life in a poetic form (ovi) in Marathi. We get ultimate joy, happiness when we read it. I pray to Goddess Sharada to help my endeavor to bring out the biography of this great saint in the form of short stories.

People have a strong belief that Sant Gajanan is pure incarnation of Shree Dattaguru and the further incarnation of Shree Ramdas Swami of Sajjangad but as we know, God is divine, unique and ultimate power, the creator and the preserver of all the living world.

The small town of Shegaon in Maharashtra was blessed with the arrival of this great saint on 23rd February 1878, We admire him for his extraordinary appearance, supernatural powers and we get attracted towards him due to his distinct theosophical instinct. He performed numerous marvels with the help of his esoteric wisdom but most of the incidents give us some or the other moral to be cherished throughout our life.

He was born to bring the people on righteous path and to

live life full of sacrifice & truth. Hindu Dharma is very rich because it has all sorts of holy books like Vedas, Upnishads, Bhagavadgita. The saint gives the message, similar to the teachings of these books, which is very useful in our day today life :

- 1) Follow the path of humanity.
- 2) Keep faith in divinity.
- 3) Never boast about one's work.
- 4) One should donate whatever one can, to those who deserve it.
- 5) Live to love all the creations of Almighty.
- 6) Do not be rude to anyone. Do not hurt anyone.
- 7) Be courteous, kind & generous to all.
- 8) Karma[to do one's duty], Yog and Bhakti are the 3 ways to achieve the ultimate goal of life.
- 9) Every soul is a part and parcel of the unique 'Brahma' therefore we must respect each other.
- 10) Be honest & work sincerely. as if we are serving GOD.

While nurturing the thoughts of the small children, these teachings will be a boon because the saint is trying to impress these teachings from his own behaviour, so it is more appreciated and adored by all.

1. Revelation of Sant Gajanan

He was first appeared in the small town Shegaon in front of the house of a devotee named Devidas Paturkar. He had a function. Leaf-platters with unused food were thrown out on the road. Sant Gajanan was seen there, eating morsels of the left over food from the platters. His face was radiant. His behavior had a saintly trait. This was observed by Shree Bankatlal Agrawal & Damodar Pant Kulkarni. The saint was almost all bare with no expressions of any care. They felt that he was very hungry, so Bankatlal brought a fresh food platter for him. Maharaj showed no special taste for food. He mixed all the food & consumed it in one shot, unmindful of the taste he got. He did not wait for Bankatlal to bring a pitcher of water, he went to the cattle pool & swallowed few

gulps of water and left abruptly. By this queer action he gave a message that all religions teach, "FOOD is the supreme spirit. WATER never gets polluted because everything in this world is the principle of Brahma so we should not waste food and water."

2. Excitement of Bankat & Pitambar

Bankatlal came home but his mind was obsessed by the radiant personality. He was not able to pay attention to his daily routine. He was searching Maharaj desperately. He couldn't express to his father. At last he narrated his anxiety to his neighbor, Ramajipant Deshmukh, who was a pious man. He said to Bankatlal, "you are blessed by the good deeds of your past. So you were lucky to meet such a divine saint."

3. Keertan of Govindbua in the presence of Maharaj

Some days passed by, Bankat went to a temple to listen to a keertan of the famous person, Govindbua Taklikar with his friend Pitambar. He was telling Pitambar about his meeting with the great saint Gajanan Maharaj and to his surprise the saint appeared right there. His joy knew no bounds. They both ran towards him, bowed down and asked him whether he was hungry. With his consent, they brought Choon (made of Gram Flour) and Bhakri for him and went to bring some water from the stream but it was almost dry and polluted too, Maharaj told him to dip the pitcher in the flow of stream. Bankat was surprised to see that with every dip, a hole formed in the stream bed & the fresh, pure water gushed in the pitcher. He brought it for Maharaj. It was just a miracle ! Maharaj was sitting in the shade of the tree to listen to the keertan. The shlok that Govindbua recited was completed by Maharaj in no time. Everyone was impressed by the way he delivered the script. Govindbua announced that Maharaj must be the incarnation of Lord Shiva.

After a couple of days, Bankat brought Maharaj home, with his father's consent. Everybody was overjoyed. Many devotees started gathering in his house to worship Maharaj. They offered him all sorts of sweets, fruits etc. When they sang bhajans the saint also joined them with his hymn '**Gan Gan Ganaat Bote**' means

whatever exists has God's presence in it. It was his favourite tune so he was named 'Gajanan'. Many devotees were eager to have a glimpse of Shree Gajanan Maharaj. It gave feeling that Bankat's house was transformed into a pilgrimage, Pandharpur.

4. Saint from Kashi came to fulfil his wishes

An ascetic came from Kashi who looked like beggar, Maharaj was omnipotent. He knew that the beggar wanted to offer his favorite thing to Maharaj, so Maharaj called him, willingly received his offering & accepted him as his devotee. The ascetic was overwhelmed and returned. Maharaj had an erratic routine, sometimes he used to sing bhajans or recited hymns of vedas, Sometimes engrossed in his own thoughts or slept for a long duration, sometimes wandered as per his own sweet will . He was a distinct person.

5. Janrao Deshmukh was given a fresh lease on life

Janrao Deshmukh, a prosperous man from shegaon was on the death bed. Doctors lost hopes for his recovery because he was not responding to any medicine, finally he was given the pious 'Tirth' by the touch of Shree Gajanan's divine feet with great faith. As a result he regained consciousness & recovered gradually, he walked to the saint on his own. He was overwhelmed to see the supreme power of the saint & continued to worship him. He invited many people for a feast, as he was completely recovered by the saint's blessings. Maharaj further explained that none can avoid natural death but the unnatural or accidental death can be averted by intense faith in Almighty & getting spiritual blessings of saints.

6. Punishment to the hypocrite Vithoba Ghatol

A gardener, Vithoba Ghatol bragged about his rapport with Gajanan Maharaj & tried to prevail upon him. This invoked the rage of the saint. Once Vithoba woke him up to give darshan to the visitors who were in a hurry to go home. Maharaj did not like this. He punished him. The real saints hate the hypocrite & do not fall prey to the quacks. He gave an important teaching "Beware of antisocial personalities, they don't deserve to give salvation to mankind" The unfortunate Vithoba failed to understand greatness

of the saint. He did not realise that one should have pure & innocent feelings, to get blessings of God.

7. Ignition of flame with yogic power of Maharaj

On the day of Akshaya Tritiya, Maharaj was having fun with the children in the neighbourhood. Jankiram was asked to give an ignited piece of flame to Maharaj but he refused & uttered some rude remarks. After wards, he regretted for the same. because he did not know that Maharaj was testing his trust in him & he failed to do the same. Maharaj created the flame with his yogic power of concentration & everybody was dumbstruck by the miracle but for him it was an easy task.

8. Chandu Mukin was overwhelmed by the omniscient Shree Gajanan Maharaj

Chandu Mukin was one of the close devotees of Maharaj, some devotees were offering him mangoes & some sweets but Maharaj wanted to fulfill, Chandu's desire, so he told Chandu to bring sweet cannolis prepared by his wife, a month before. Chandu came home & asked his wife but she did not recollect about cannolis left over. Though she was ready to prepare fresh ones Maharaj refused. Maharaj was omniscient. his words were like the verdict. His wife found cannolis unnoticed for a month in her earthern pot. she was amazed to see it fresh. She offered to the saint. Chandu was greatly pleased that Maharaj loved the cannolis more than Mangoes, like Lord Shreeram ate Shabari's offerings with great relish.

9. Real life lesson to Madhav from chincholi

An old person named Madhav lost his wife & family, bereft in despair, he started chanting bhajans for many long hours. He regretted that he did not find time to worship God in his youth. Maharaj gave him a piece of advice "Never start digging well when the house is on fire. One should have faith in God & with the foresight, worship God throughout our life." Maharaj showed him the horrifying image of God & scared him, to teach him a lesson. Madhav begged for mercy to get rid of his sins. Finally the saint blessed him to get heavenly abode. We learn a lesson, "if we regret

for our sins from the bottom of our heart, God forgives us."

10. Pious teaching of shree Gajanan

Maharaj always tried to inculcate righteousness among the people because his desire was to achieve betterment of his devotees. He advised them to call renowned Brahmins to perform pooja that creates positive waves in the surroundings & helps to keep sacred attitude.

11. Sant Gajanan was in meditation at Pimpalgaon

One day Maharaj walked away to an ancient Shiv temple in a forest near Pimpalgaon & sat in padmasan, with blissful oblivion. A group of cowherds was watching him for a couple of hours & was surprised to see him steeped in meditation. They tried to wake him up, they sang prayers, offered flowers, food etc, but there was no response. They thought Lord Shiva himself might have come out of the idol to give us darshan. Finally they brought him in a procession with great pomp in their town. The news of the yogi, spread like wild fire & the flocks of devotees gathered there. when the villagers decided to fast for him, he woke up from meditation. Jubilant villagers bowed down to him. He blessed all of them. After few days Bankatal received this news, he came there & took Maharaj to his native place, Shegaon.

12. Miracle to get water in a dry well of Bhaskar Patil

In the month of Vaishakh, Maharaj reached Akoli. There was scarcity of water. As it was summer, all the wells & rivers had dried, A farmer named Bhaskar was working on his farm He had brought a pitcher of drinking water for himself. Maharaj wanted to test him so he asked a few sips of water to quench his thirst but he refused. So Maharaj walked away towards a dry well. Sitting on the rock near the well, he implored the Almighty to get some water in the well. With the invocation of the genuine saint the well was filled with springs of fresh water. Bhaskar could not believe, that a well dry for twelve years was surging with water. He realised that the person whom he slighted off, with bad words was not an ordinary person but the powerful messenger of God, so he begged his pardon in humiliation & promised to continue his

worship. Maharaj taught us a lesson, "Water is life, it is a pious act to offer water to anybody & every body".

13. Bankat a true devotee & trouble of fiery bees in his farm

Once Bankatlal organized festivities at his farm. He invited his friends to enjoy roasted corn. Maharaj was one of the invitees. In the surroundings there were tall tamarind trees with beehives on them. When the fire was ignited the smoke disturbed the bees & they started hovering over the guests. All the guests started running helter skelter but Maharaj was nonchalant. The bees covered him like a blanket. Every one watched it with disbelief.. Bankat was very sorry to watch the saint's plight & was trying to rescue him from the debacle. He called a goldsmith to pull out the stings of bees but Maharaj with his yogic power took a deep breath & held it for a while. All the thorns popped up from his body, leaving all the observers breathless. Fiery bees were quiet, Maharaj taught a lesson, that nobody but the Almighty offers help in our calamity. Saints are always kind to all creations of God & never hostile to anyone so we should be grateful to him.

14. Visit of Saint Narsingji

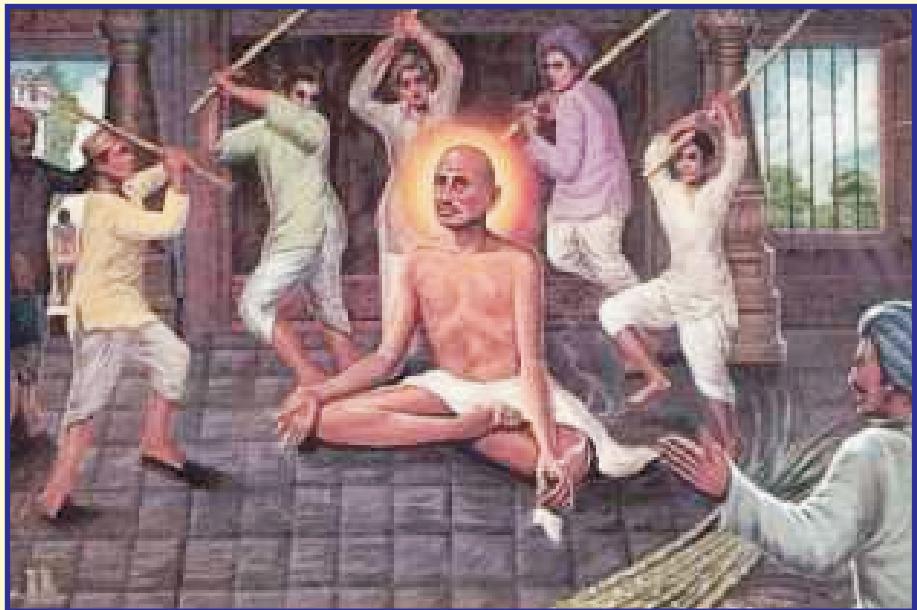
Once Maharaj went to see Shree Narsinghji, a great saint. Though he was a family person he was staying in the dense jungle near Akot. Both were very pleased to exchange their experiences. He was dedicated to Lord Pandurang. Maharaj was a yogi. People rushed there to take darshan of these real and rare saints. Though they had followed different routes in life, still they were brothers. Here Maharaj explained that apparently the three routes of ultimate reality are action, devotion & yogic ability (Karma, Bhakti, Yog). But they reach the same goal & attain Nirvana .The master of this creation makes us perform our duty [without asking our choice] as prescribed by him.

15. Blessing to Brajbhushan

Once Maharaj reached a town Shivar in Vidarbha. There was a famous learned brahmin Vrajabhushan. He was a devotee of Sun God. His habit was to offer prayers to the God of light, after bathing in the river every morning. One day Maharaj came there to



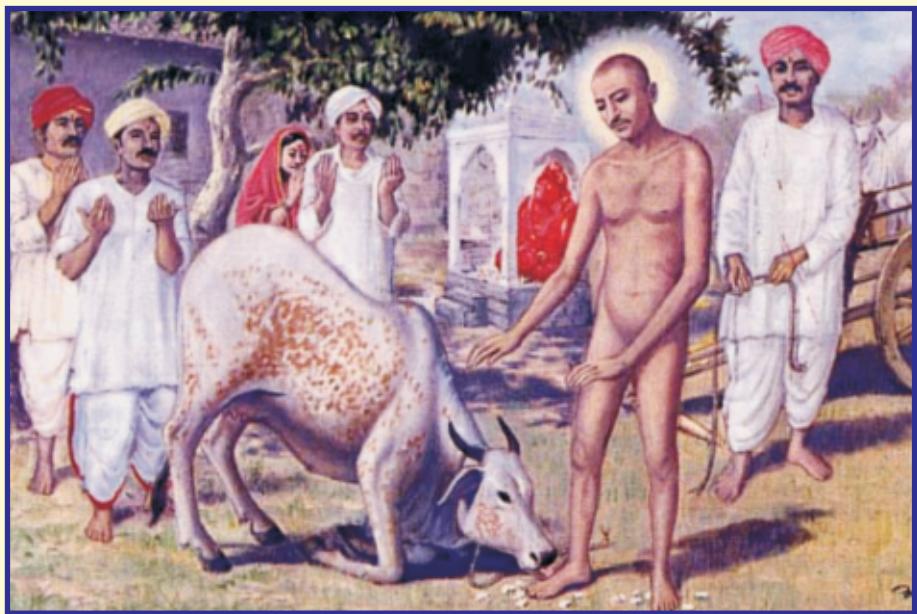
1. Sant Gajanan was revealed on 23rd February 1878



17. Encounter with boastful Patil brothers



23. Govindbu's horse calmed down.



28. Sukhalal's cow became docile.

give him darshan. He was surprised to see the radiant face & long arms of the great saint. He rushed to the revered saint with utmost joy, bowed down to him with great respect, offered worship reciting twelve names of the sun. He said prayer, "O Gajanan, you are Brahma, full of knowledge & preserver of the universe, you arrive in this world again & again to bless the mankind" Maharaj hugged him & said, "Do your duty unmindful of the result or fruit. This is the way to attain God's favour."

16. Shree Gajanan arrived in Hanuman Temple

Every year the devotees used to gather at Hanuman Temple in the month of Shravan. The Patil of the village was an authority of this festival. Everyone was overjoyed when Maharaj came to temple to celebrate the festival. He told Bankatlal, "Now, I will stay in this temple because seers don't live in friend's house." Bankat gave consent as he was helpless. Bhasker patil stayed with him to serve.

17. Encounter with boastful Patil Brothers & their Surrender

All the five Patil brothers were crazy of fitness & body building, they played games of swords & sticks. When they went to the temple they started teasing Maharaj. Those insolents challenged him to a wrestling fight. Asking him to prove his saintly might. Maharaj laughed at their folly but Bhaskar was angry at them so he requested Maharaj that they should go back to Akoli but Maharaj wanted to teach them a lesson. Maharaj asked them to tug him. Hari used all his strength but couldn't move him even an inch away. Soon they realised that he was a mountain of strength, though he looked frail by his appearance. So they surrendered at the saint's feet and accepted defeat. Once Dnyaneshwar also had to face an acid test to prove himself so he made a buffalo to chant the mantras from vedas & everyone was spell bound. Similarly Maharaj proved his remarkable ability of endurance.

18. Sugarcane juice crushed with bare hands & subdued Patil brothers

All the Patil brothers came to the temple with a bundle of sugar canes. They were boisterous. They said "If you want to taste

sugar cane, you have to bear a beating without a scar and then only we will acclaim you as saint" Maharaj smiled, so they started beating ruthlessly, the revered saint. Bhaskar made abortive efforts to stop those insolent kids, Maharaj was smiling with no scar on his body. On the contrary he said to the boys, "your hands are sore, I will squeeze a juice of sugarcane for you" and literally he squeezed the sugarcane with his bare hands (without any device) and gave a refreshing juice to the boys. The boys hung their faces in shame & bowed down to the sublime saint. Khanderao was also amazed by this stupendous act. The saint could do this with his yogic power.

19. Khandu was blessed with a son

Khanderao once approached Maharaj expressing his desire to be blessed with a child so that Kukaji his uncle would be happy. This incident made them learn that though they had- the powerful hold on their village, they had to beg to Divine power of Almighty to be blessed with a son. Maharaj made earnest appeal on his behalf & blessed him. Over a period of time he got a child, he named him Bhikya, because he begged for a child to Maharaj. His joy knew no bounds. He distributed sweets to the poor children. After few months,Kukaji breathed his last, Khandu was very sad, this gave an opportunity to Deshmukhs to plot conspiracy because . There was a feud between both the families.

20. Maharaj helped Khandu Patil

Once a mahar, a mail carrier refused to carry a mail. He ridiculed patil badly, so patil was infuriated by his action & he forcefully hit a blow with a stick on his arm, that fractured his hand. This incident was told to Deshmukh. They got a chance to harass patil so they lodged a complaint against Khanderao. & arrested him but he was a deep devotee of Maharaj so he & his brothers approached Maharaj & requested him to help them The whole episode was blown out of proportion & it was very insulting for Khandu, to get arrested and it was a severe blow to his dignity so he was restless. Actually speaking he was legally right so the saint saved him from the impending arrest. Just as Lord Krishna saved

panavas against the kauravs, in the epic Mahabharat, because they were morally right.

21. Telangi recited Vedic Hymns & Maharaj rectified them

A few days later patil took Maharaj to stay with him. Some well versed telangi Brahmins started reciting vedic hymns in high pitch with the intention to attract attention but while reciting they made mistakes & did not correct it so Maharaj was upset. He advised to make proper pronunciation. He recited for them with great respect, as if sage Vashistha was chanting. They felt ashamed & hung their faces after this incident. Maharaj suggested, to do their duty, whole heartedly as if they are offering it to God & don't make it a tool of business. They were greatly impressed by the saint's recitation & literally touched his feet.

22. Brahmagiri & his team had learnt to shun hypocrisy

Krishnaji, the youngest brother of patil, owned a temple of God Shiva . Maharaj came there to stay. So he built a shade. It changed into the place of pilgrimage. There came Shree Brahmagiri Maharaj with his disciples. They were on their journey to holy places like Gangotri, Kedar, Girnar etc. They wanted a meal with 'Shira Puri'. They were going to stay for 3 days . They bragged to be the masters in chanting vedas. Brahmagiri preached the gist of Bhagavadgita hymn "soul is eternal & no device can split it." But it was a hallow speech of philosophy without spiritual attainment. Maharaj was sitting on a wooden cot, listening to them. In the meanwhile a spark of fire fell on the cot & it was ablazed. The saint requested Brahmagiri to come & sit with him on the burning cot. To prove the preaching in his discourse that fire can't burn Brahma which is located in every body. But it is easier said than done. Brahmagiri was afraid and begged to be excused for underestimating the saint Gajanan. Finally Maharaj was requested by others to leave the burning cot. As soon as Maharaj got down the cot collapsed in a moment. People extinguished fire & kept it as an evidence. Maharaj advised Brahmagiri to shun hypocrisy and told that a saint has to forego worldly pleasure, to achieve salvation & self realization like sant Dyaneshwar,shree Shankaracharya.

23. The mischievous horse became docile.

A religious singer, Govindbuwa Taklikar came to Shiv temple to perform keertan. He tied his horse at the entrance. The horse was very nasty & mischievous. Many a times he snapped the tied ropes & sprinted. This time Govindbuwa forgot to bring his special chains to tie it. Everyone was worried but in the dead silence of midnight, Maharaj went near the horse to sleep. He recited his favourite hymn "Gan Gan Ganaat bote" all the time. Govindbuwa could not sleep because of the anxiety. He got up & saw the horse standing quietly in the shadow of Maharaj. To every body's surprise the horse was ameliorative in his behavior & became docile. Govindbuwa subdued at the saint's feet. He made him humble like a bull in front of Shiva. With saint's kind blessings even a villain is brought on the right path.

24. Never Hesitate to Keep the word

People came to shegaon from far & near, to fulfill their desires. Two brahmins from Balapur came with some desire. When it was achieved they forgot to bring prasad as they vowed. So Maharaj preached them to keep the promise to express gratitude & to get God's bountiful blessings.

25. Shree Gajanan Maharaj arrived in Samarth Ramdas Swami's attire

In the town Balapur, there lived a devotee named Balkrishna, who was disciple of Shree Ramdas Swami. Every year he & his wife used to visit Sajjangad on foot, singing bhajans on the way & reach there to celebrate Das Navmi. This routine continued year after year, till they reached the age of sixty. Afterwards, it was physically not possible for them to visit Sajjangad so they were distressed .With tears in eyes they appealed swami about it, Ramdas Swami came in his dream & told, "I will come to your house on Das navmi. You celebrate it in your house." Next year Balkrishna initiated the celebration of Das Navmi in his house with fanfare&was looking forward to the arrival of swami,To his surprise saint Gajanan appeared at the site saying, "Jai Jai Raghuvir Samarth". Balkrishna was confused to see saint

Gajanan in the attire of Ramdas Swami. Finally Maharaj held his hand & convinced him that he was incarnation of shree Ramdas Swami. Tears of joy rolled on his cheeks. Ramdas Swami came in his dream & sorted out his doubt saying, "Believe me Bal ! I came, as I promised." Bhagavadgita says, "soul remains the same while body changes". then Balkrishna adored the saint & started worshipping him.

26. Shree Gajanan met Amaravati Devotees

Once Gajanan Maharaj went to Amravati to stay with Atmaram Deshpande. He was holding a high position in Amravati district. He was a pious man, he honoured the saint by offering all sorts of sweets, flowers & ornaments. Another devotee shrikrishna Khaparde, a leading lawyer & a friend of Lokmanya Tilak, also performed puja of Maharaj at his house. Ganesh appa, a sincere devotee was also present there. He was poor so he could not afford such extravagance. But his mind was eager to receive Maharaj at his house. Maharaj was always gracious so he willingly went to Appa's house & fulfilled his wishes, Appa & his wife were overjoyed to offer pooja, as they had whole hearted devotion to Maharaj. Both offered their own life & their home to serve Maharaj.

27. Maharaj shifted to new place and tested Balabhau

At last Maharaj abandoned Krishnaji's place & went to stay on a vacant plot near Shiv temple. It was owned by Sakhararam Asolkar. Maharaj had five disciples with deep devotion, Balabhau was one of them, who wanted to stay with Maharaj. He sacrificed his job. Bhaskar did not understand Balabhau's urge to serve Maharaj so he thrashed him with some ego. Maharaj did not like it so Maharaj purposely started beating Balabhau with a cane. People were afraid but surprisingly Balabhau had not a single scar. Maharaj showed Bhaskar that Balabhau had special love with Maharaj. Bhaskar understood the deep devotion & esteem of Balabhau. He never became aggressive to Balabhau thereafter.

28. Rebellious cow became obedient & docile

A defiant cow of Sukhlal Agrawal used to create nuisance for the people of Balapur. Sukhlal took a lot of efforts to get rid of

her, but it was in vain. Some strong men surrounded her & with great difficulty they caught her with a sturdy rope & brought to Maharaj with a hope that maharaj will help them to make the cow docile because they knew that Govind bua's horse was tamed by Maharaj. She looked up to Maharaj with tearful eyes. When Maharaj released her, she folded her forelegs & bowed to the Saint, licking his feet with her tongue & she became so humble, that neither ropes nor chains were needed for her now. People were dumbstruck to see the whole episode & raised cheers in the praise of Shree Gajanan.

29. Selfish attitude of Laxman lost the saint's favour

Laxman Ghude a resident of Karanja had an acute ailment in the stomach. He tried various medicines but he could not get relief. His wife had deep faith in Maharaj so she came & requested Maharaj humbly to cure agonies of her husband. The saint was eating a mango, he threw it to her direction & told her to feed it to Laxman. She did it but people started criticizing that mango will worsen the stomach problem. She believed that it was an elixir for Laxman. No wonder! Laxman was completely recovered in a week & went to shegaon for darshan. Laxman requested Maharaj to come to his place at Karanja but when Maharaj noticed that he was reluctant to offer Maharaj whatever he had promised. Maharaj was unhappy with false modesty, selfish attitude & hypocrisy. So finally Laxman suffered a lot for such behaviour, so one should be honest to keep the word given to the seer to express gratitude.

30. Bhaskar Patil was bit by a dog & Maharaj gave him eternal abode

Next year, Maharaj came to Balapur after Das Navmi A rabid dog bit Bhaskar, he was given first aid treatment & brought to Maharaj as per his wish. He requested earnestly to relieve from the pain but Maharaj said,"Dog was the enemy of your previous birth & he took revenge in this life." Bhaskar was given medication from Brahmagiri hills, to cure dog bite. Bhaskar had a short span of life futher. so he took sincere assurance from all devotees to build grand temple of the saint in Shegaon that everybody would praise it. On the day of his Nirvana, he sat in padmasana & Maharaj

blessed him to take samadhi. Afterwards ten days were observed by giving meals to many devotees. On the tenth day, crows in the woods started troubling the people while eating prasad. Maharaj ordered the crows to take prasad that day but never turn again to that place. The skeptic people deliberately came there to see, that crows also obeyed the saint. Their faces were hung to see tremendous power of the saint. Even today not a single crow is seen there.

31. Ganu Javare was miraculously rescued from the accident by Maharaj

It was a drought period & the work of digging well was in progress. Dynamite was stuffed in the holes to cut big rocks. Great devotee named Ganu Javare was trapped in the well while doing this risky job. There was great explosion. The entire well was filled with smoke, Ganu caught hold of a big rock & hid behind, praying Maharaj with entreaty to rescue him. Remaining dynamites exploded one after other. People thought Ganu was shattered into pieces. But... but saint Gajanan was his protector. He had a miraculous escape. People rejoiced on hearing Ganu's voice from the well , they helped him to come out of the well safely. He immediately went running to Maharaj saying, "You saved me from the horrible accident," he had no words to express the motherly love showered by Maharaj.

32. Maharaj expects unconditional love

Bachhulal Agrawala a rich devotee performed pooja of Maharaj with elaborate preparation & offerings of gold ornaments etc. He expressed his desire to build a temple of Shree Ram and asked for blessings. Maharaj blessed him but refused to take valuables & taught him a lesson that his emotion of bhakti is more important than all the show off.

33. Pitamber a true disciple at heart was blessed by Maharaj & the tree blossoms

A very poor devotee named Pitamber stayed with Maharaj to serve him sincerely, Maharaj was impressed by his truthful devotion & gave him a dhoti as reward. When he wore it, other

devotees got jealous, so there was a feud among them. Maharaj decided to send him to Kondoli. He reluctantly went there but was very nervous. He started searching a safe place to settle down. As there were red ants on the ground. He started climbing from branch to branch, villagers came there and saw the wonder that he did not fall even from the smallest branch at all. They asked him, "Where do you hail from?" When he said, "I am devotee of Shree Gajanan & he sent me here", initially they thought he was lying. They wanted to vouch his statement. so they asked him to blossom the dry mango tree in front of them, he was in a quandary. He told them with folded hands."Maharaj made mangoes grow on each bow but I am his disciple, I had not gained the level of attainment that Maharaj had." The people gathered there, wanted to ridicule but Pitambar worshiped the saint. His invocation reached Maharaj because he had incredible faith in him & so Maharaj helped Pitambar to thrive the bald mango tree into green foliage. What a great marvel !! Just unbelievable !!. When they plucked the tender leaves, they were convinced the credentials of the disciple. The people gathered, cheered him with great applause & also the glory of his Satguru. Further Pitambar lived in that village & served the underprivileged brothers, so the villagers revered him very much.

34. Maharaj shifted to a place donated by the Government

Once Maharaj thought to stay in a remote place & not in anybody's house. There was no other alternative but to request the Government to get a piece of land for the saint. According to Maharaj, "The land belongs to Almighty & no one can claim its mine". Hari Patil requested the collectors of Buldhana District named Mr. Kari. He agreed to allot a plot of an acre to develop. The word of Maharaj was always a verdict. Hari & Bankat started collecting funds to build a temple there. The devotees readily subscribed, but the atheists criticized, that Maharaj himself was the ultimate power, creator of the universe then why they need to get charity to build the temple, but they were told, "It is in your interest to contribute for the sacred cause with great faith, as it will fetch returns in multiples." People spent generously and the abode for Shree Gajanan Maharaj was ready in no time.

35. A leprosy patient Gangabharati & his deep devotion

People from far & near gathered in Shegaon to offer prayers. A Gosavi named Gangabharati came from a village Savdad. He was a leprosy patient & was tired of his sufferings. The devotees did not allow him to go close to Maharaj, as his disease was contagious but still Gangabharati grabbed an opportunity & went to bow down at the feet of Maharaj. Maharaj slapped & kicked him & spat on him. He took it as blessing. He spread the spittle on the body as an ointment. People standing there criticized the blind faith. They advised him to take medicine instead, but Gangabharati had full conviction in the power of Maharaj, so the spittle which people saw proved to be an ointment for him. He was completely cured by the blessings of Maharaj. He refused to go back to his hometown with his wife and son but desired to stay, with Maharaj & sing bhajans to please him.

36. Zamsingh's celebration on pournima

Zamsingh arranged a great feast to celebrate the saint's visit to Mundagaon. People gathered on a large scale. Cooks got busy preparing 'Prasad Meals', but all of a sudden, clouds gathered in the sky & started a heavy downpour. Zamsingh was disappointed with the untimely rain. Maharaj already told him that the day he had selected was not auspicious for prasad & told him to postpone but he neglected. The next day Maharaj controlled over the rain showers to fulfill the desire of Zamsingh and proved his supremacy.

37. Pundalik's pilgrimage with unbearable fever & pain

Once the epidemic of plague spread over Berar. People left their homes & went far to live on fields. A devotee named Pundalik was on his way to Shegaon with his father. He felt feverish & had a boil in his armpit. He couldn't walk even a step further, but still he had firm determination and urge to visit Shegaon. Joining his hands he prayed Maharaj, "Let me reach Shegaon & touch your feet. Please protect me till that moment". He walked in great agony & finally reached Shegaon with great devotion. He fell prostrate on his feet. The saint pressed his boil & said, "You will be alright now."

Suddenly the boil subsided & gradually Pundalik started feeling better. This was the reward for astute devotion of Pundalik.

38. One should live within one's means.

A brahmin named Bandutatya lived in Mehekar district, he was pious at heart. He had ups & downs in his life & was frustrated. He was indebted, so he felt ashamed & thought of committing suicide because he realised that no one respects a peniless man. He decided to go to Himalayas to end his life. He smeared ash on his body to hide his identity. He went to buy a ticket of the train to Haridwar. All of sudden a brahmin approached him & suggested him, not to buy the ticket before he visits Maharaj of Shegaon. He listened to the advice ,came to Shegaon &realized, that a glimpse at the saint brought a positive change.He bowed down. Maharaj sorted out his frustration by telling him,"go to your field in the midnight & dig the soil, you will find plenty of pots full of money, Square off your debts & keep the rest of money for you." Bandutatya followed the advice. To his sweet surprise he got copper pots full of gold coins in it. He was super excited & got crazy, he lifted them in his hand & started dancing, chanting "Jai Gajanan, Shree Gajanan." There after he had a favourable period. He spent the money judiciously & thanked Maharaj again & again.

39. Maharaj & his disciples were saved by 'Narmada Devi'

People had a firm faith that it was auspicious to bathe in Narmada river on the new moon day which comes on Monday, so Martand Patil, Bankatlal & other friends decided to go to Omkareshwar to bathe in Narmada. They requested Maharaj to come with them. Maharaj was reluctant. The banks of Narmada were full of pilgrims. All of them took a darshan, afterwards they decided to return by boat because there was a lot of rush on road, so they hired a boat. Unfortunately the boat with the disciples met with an accident. It dashed on a rock. Water of the river entered in the boat and all of them were on the verge of ruin. Everybody worshiped Narmadadevi earnestly. Maharaj personally was in this boat, He sang praise of the sacred Narmada. Narmada devi appeared there & rescued them from the mishap. They all returned

to Shegaon unhurt. This was God's grace people were spell bound to see the great episode & started praising their savior Maharaj.

40. Shree Gajanan was a chief guest of the function & discourse of Lokmanya Tilak

Lokmanya Tilak, the freedom fighter was known for his foresight and determination. He took a vow to liberate our land from foreign reins. He was very brave. He used to write in the newspaper 'Kesari' to instigate people against British rule. Once he was invited to deliver a speech on the occasion of Shivjayanti in Akola. It was 4 May 1908, many learned men like Damle, Patwardhan, Kolhatkar, Khaparde, Desai were present on the Dais. It was a great occasion because Shivaji's mother Jijabai hailed from Sindhkhed in Vidarbha region & father Shahaji was from Maharashtra. Shivaji was blessed by Ramdas Swami & so he was victorious. Maharaj was requested to attend the function & bless Lokmanya for his mission. A huge pendal was erected, people gathered from far & near to listen to the guest. Maharaj reached in time along with other eminent people. Lokmanya delivered a charismatic speech to awaken the people to fight for independence. People appreciated with cheers & applause, but that time Maharaj predicted that British might sentence him to prison. Unfortunately the news was announced. The eminent lawyers rushed to defend Tilak in legal process. Some devotees tried the spiritual way to save Lokmanya from punishment, Kolhatkar, a devotee came to Shegaon & requested Maharaj, to bless Tilak to face the calamity. Maharaj gave a piece of Bhakri as prasad for him. Maharaj was sure that the arrest couldn't be avoided but he will do some great work, while he is in the jail. The saints are aware of present & future, Lokmanya was arrested & sent to Mandalay Jail. He wrote the treatise of Bhagavadgita i.e. Gitarahasya. It has been acclaimed as the best by the scholars. It is an interpretation of Bhagavadgita, the holy book from an angle of 'Karmayoga'. All these efforts gave him more fame than the struggle for freedom. His book will be read all over the globe.

41. Shridhar Kale was taught wisdom

A devotee, Shridhar Kale from Kolhapur was very poor but

he wanted to go abroad to get some technical training & to bring prosperity to our mother land (like oyama & Togo from Japan). But Maharaj advised him that, spiritual knowledge is more precious than material knowledge. He gave an example that in 1300 AD Saint Dnyaneshwar mentioned that Sun is stationery but it seems that it rises in east & sets in west. This was proved by scientist Copernicus much later in the year 1543. The sage Kanad proved thousands of years ago, that all things are made of atoms & then after many years it was proved by scientist Dalton. So Shridhar was discouraged to leave the country for the sake of material knowledge. Shridhar's confusion was over, he got blessing, he found the right path to lead his life successfully.

42. The devotee Pundalik received prasad

There was a great devotee named Pundalik Bhokre in the town Mundagaon. A neighbour named Bhagabai had no faith in Maharaj. She was trying to prevail upon Pundalik to go with her to some other Guru to become disciple. He was not willing to go with her. Maharaj came in his dream & chanted a mantra 'Gan Gan Ganaat Bote' in his ears & told him, not to go after hypocrites but to follow the right path as told by him. Maharaj also blessed him by giving his 'Paduka' (footwear) to worship. He was greatly elated by the dream. The 'Paduka' he actually received later from a devotee Zamsingh who had gone to Shegaon two days before, Pundalik was overwhelmed to receive the 'Paduka', as his wish was fulfilled. Maharaj became his Guru & he a disciple.

43. Bhau Kawar had dedicated love & ardent desire to feed Maharaj

In Akola, lived Rajaram Kavar a sincere disciple of Maharaj. His son Trimbak was in medical college at Hyderabad. He had great faith in Maharaj from his childhood. Once he desired to offer Maharaj, his favorite food Bhaji, Bhakri, Choon (Made of Gram Flour), so he hesitantly requested his elder brother's wife to prepare. He took the tiffin & rushed to take the train to Shegaon, but he missed the train at 12 noon, there was no train to Shegaon for an hour, so he was very disappointed, as if he had done unpardonable mistake. He started addressing Maharaj to excuse

him & wait till he comes to Shegaon. At last after 3 o'clock he reached there, till that time Maharaj did not eat any food. Though there were many dishes of sweets kept in front of him. When Bhau reached, both were very excited as if a mother meets her child after a long time. Bhau stood with folded hands, Maharaj smiled and told him to offer the food which he brought. Maharaj ate it with great relish & gave some food to Bhau as prasad. This is called a pure love from heart to heart. Words defy to express such love. Next year he passed the medical examination with the same integrity.

44. Religious minded Tukaram had to keep patience

As usual one morning Tukaram, a farmer was working on his field. A rabbit was sitting behind him, partly hiding in the bushes. A hunter aimed at the rabbit, but accidentally one of the shots hit Tukaram near his ear. He suffered unbearable pain in his head & had to sit up with sleepless nights. Doctors failed to take out the bullet. This did not deter Tukaram to visit the temple. He engaged himself in the service to the saint with full devotion & patience. One fine morning the bullet dropped down, the pain mitigated. He proved that the services offered to the saint piously, selflessly never go waste.

45. Resolute Bhaskar had punishment

Many devotees of the saint stayed in Akola. Once Maharaj came to stay at Khatau Mills. Vishnusa Savaji of Malakapur wanted to bring Maharaj to his house. He requested Bhaskar but Maharaj was not willing to go. He told Bhaskar,"Don't force me otherwise you will regret." But Bhaskar insisted him humbly to honour Vishnusa's promise. On Bhaskar's request, the station master vacated a compartment of the train for the saint. But Maharaj entered in Ladies compartment unnoticed by them., Immediately it was told to police. They tried to drag him out but he did not budge. Even the station master requested him, but it was futile. At last a case was filed against him. Advocate Jathar decided not to charge him with any offence as he had no material intention & he was a divine person so instead Bhaskar was penalised & was regretted.

46. Mahatabsha of Kurum & a lesson of secularism

During the next visit of Maharaj to Akola at Bapurao's house, a muslim saint Mahatabsha was eager to visit him, so he came. Maharaj gave him hints for self realization. Next day Bachchulal invited Maharaj for meals. Maharaj did not get down from the buggy. Everyone was surprised, Afterwards his devotees realised that Mahatabsha was not invited so Maharaj was reluctant to get down. Finally, he was also brought along with Maharaj & both took meal. Maharaj gave a message that Hindu & Muslim, all are the creations of Almighty. One should love one's religion but respect other's religion too, as Humanity is the best religion. Mahatabasha went to Punjab & the construction of mosque was completed with the grace of Maharaj. Temples & mosques are built with the same material like bricks & sand, then to fight for their different shapes is unreasonable & illogical. The valuable message was given by the saint.

47. Maharaj fulfills his own desire

Maharaj cured Bapurao's wife from the mysterious illness & went to Akot to meet Narsinghji. There was a well near his monastry. Maharaj sat on the brim & said,"Let the holy rivers come out & give me bath today". With his invocations the fountains of the river water poured on him. The people gathered were amazed to see & also enjoyed the showers. The fountains then subsided as the saint pleased. Maharaj met Narsinghji & went back to Shegaon.

48. Bayaja & Pundalik, siblings of the previous birth

Bayaja, a neighbour of Pundalik had been worshipping Maharaj. She was married but was not blessed with a child. Her parents were desperate & went to Maharaj. He told them, not to blame her for that, as it was her destiny. Bayaja continued her worship along with another disciple Pundalik. People misunderstood that pair but Maharaj said,"You can't deny their affection as they are siblings of their past life. She is like Sant Janabai, a disciple of Sant Namdeo of Pandharpur."

49. Bhau Kavar's sincere appeal to Maharaj.

Maharaj always protects his devotee from a dreadful spell. Here is a tale of Doctor Bhau Kavar, who was in charge of Khamgaon Hospital. He got a boil, giving grueling pains. All efforts of medical treatment & surgery went futile. He was restless lying on the bed praying to Maharaj with folded hands & with great entreaty to cure his pain. In the midnight a brahmin got down from the bullock cart & knocked the door. He said,"I am Gaja,I brought 'Tirtha' & 'Angara' (holy water & holy ash powder with the touch of Maharaj) for Bhau Kavar. Apply it to his boil to cure him." he left the things with Bhau's brother & disappeared in a moment. Nobody could trace the bullock cart. Bhau was relieved from the pain as soon as he applied 'Angara' to the boil &sipped the 'Tirtha'. gradually he recovered. He visited Shegaon to see Maharaj & was convinced by the question that Maharaj asked him,"You did not feed my bullocks that night. It was not fair." Bhau fell prostrate at his feet & expressed gratitude. Such was the strong belief in Maharaj.

50. Bapuna's Fervor to get darshan of Lord Pandurang in Pandharpur

On the occasion of Ashadhi Ekadashi, Maharaj started to go to Pandharpur along with some devotees, Bapuna was one of them. Pandharpur was crowded with all pilgrims chanting "Jai Jai Ramkrishna Hari" on their route. The entire atmosphere was charged with gratification. Maharaj stayed in Kukaji Patil's house. On the day of festival, everybody went to the temple along with Maharaj but Bapuna went for bath & he could not join them in the crowd. There was a lot of police protection. He became helpless, disappointed. He went haywire & started praying repeatedly to Lord Pandurang. He was desperate to see Lord Vitthal on that auspicious day. He started calling himself unfortunate. Some people thought he was hypocrite. But Maharaj understood his fervor & he showed up as Shree Hari Vitthal with hands on the waist & blessed him. He suggested that he was none other than the preeminent who lives in every body. This was called a genuine love & pure devotion. It was a true example of Sadguru & his disciple.

51. The saint, protector in every difficulty

In Pandharpur, cholera was spreading like wildfire. A devotee from Kavathe Bahadur in Vidarbha caught the infection. He became weak & could not get up. Maharaj was not ready to abandon the sick brother from his land. Who was on the death bed So he held his hand & assured him,"Don't get scared, you will be out of woods. "Really he was rescued from the death trap. It was God's grace. Only saints, the messenger of God help in such situation. Everybody got dumbstruck to see that. They cheered the glory of the saint again and again. All devotees returned safely to Shegaon. Maharaj was their escort.

52. Maharaj was a prodigy

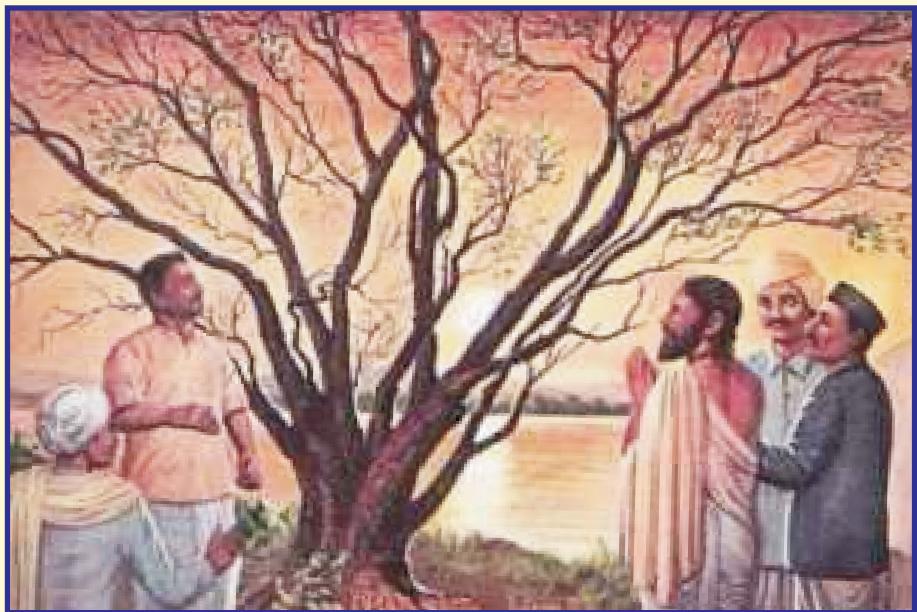
Once an orthodox brahmin came to Shegaon from far off place for Darshan. He heard the glory of the saint & wanted to get his blessings. While walking towards the temple, he came across a dog lying dead on his way. He took it as a bad omen & started abusing. Maharaj understood it & came in person there. Maharaj told him, "perform your worship, as you desire." He touched the dog with his feet. The dog stood up & took to heels in a moment. The Brahmin was spell bound indeed. He begged pardon for his mistake & admired the supernatural power of the saint & took his blessings too.

53. Kashinath was blessed

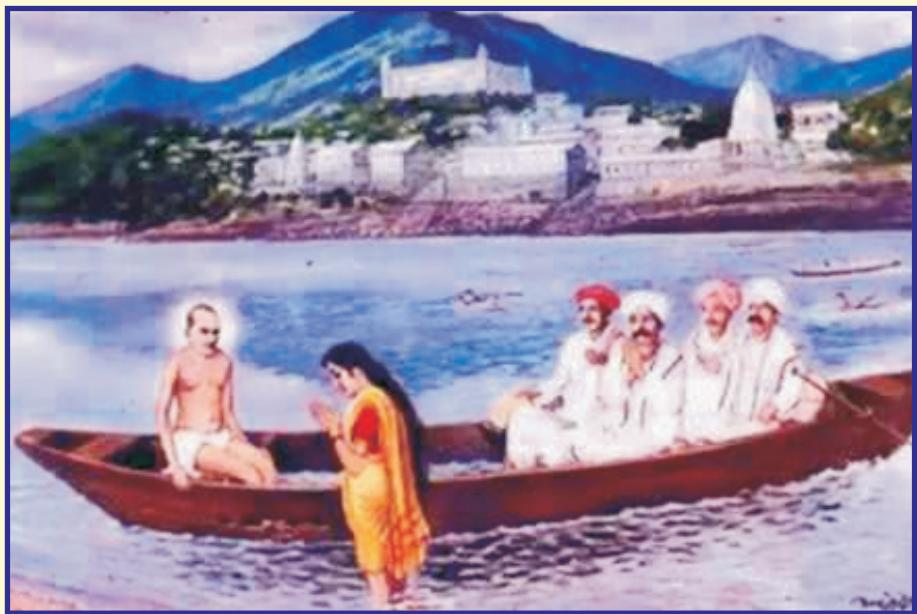
Kashinath Garde, a devotee, frequently used to visit Shegaon for darshan, once Maharaj read his mind, gave him a clue that he would get promotion, when Kashinath returned to Khamgaon. He had a telegram saying that he was promoted to a higher grade officer. In Shegaon he could not comprehend the meaning of the clue. Really these saints can see present, past & future of every human being.

54. Gopal Buty, a millionaire was very dedicated worshipper.

Maharaj went to Nagpur to stay with Gopal Buty on his request. He was an affluent person. He kept Maharaj in a palatial building at Sitabardi fort. Everyday he performed Puja & called scores of people to take prasad (meals). Devotees used to sing



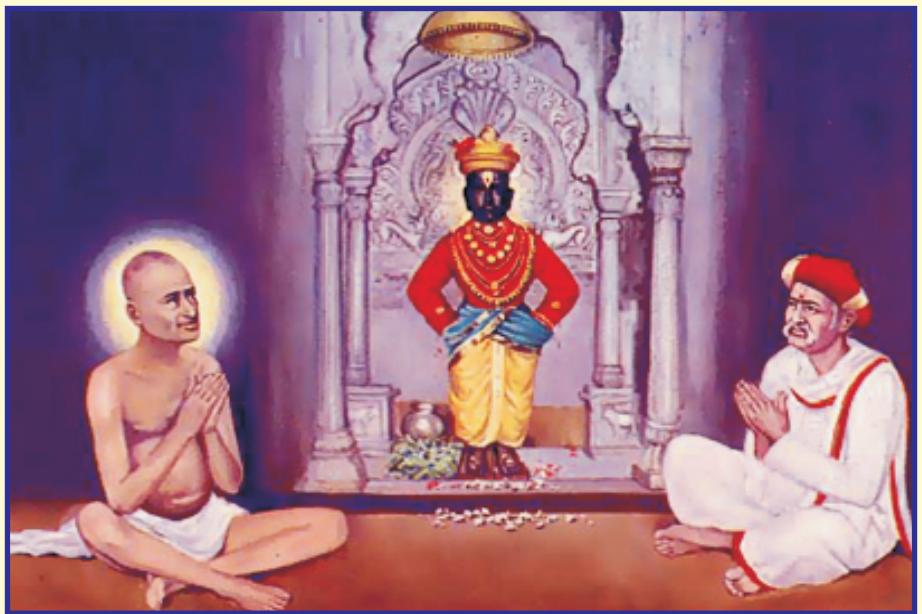
33. Pitamber was blessed by Maharaj to blossom the bald tree.



39. Benevolence of Goddess Narmada.



40. Discourse of Lokmanya Tilak on Shivjayanti



50. Maharaj gave darshan to Bapuna in the form of Vitthal

Bhajans, devotional songs. The whole fanfare was for the celebrity, Shree Gajanan Maharaj but people from Shegaon were not allowed to take darshan. Maharaj was staying there very reluctantly because Buty was too proud of his possessions & power. This fact enraged Hari Patil. He came there to take Maharaj to Shegaon. Initially Gopal Buty did not allow him, because he wanted to keep Maharaj at his house, but of no avail. Hari rushed there but Gopal caught his feet & said, "Please do not go right now. It will be a matter of shame for me if you go without taking food." Hari Patil agreed to join the feast along with the other devotees & then took Maharaj with him back to Shegaon. Before leaving Gopal's place Maharaj gave blessings to his family.

55. Two saints with the Yogi

In Shegaon two saints came to visit him. Both were his brothers, one was Rangnath Maharaj from Marathwada & another was Vasudevanand Saraswati (Tembhe Swami) from Mangaon. All three were 'Vibhuti' having intense intuition but their routes were different. The latter was the deft follower of 'Karmmarg'. Balabhau asked Maharaj "how can he be your brother?" As Maharaj was a follower of 'Yoga', so Maharaj explained very elaborately the three paths which traverse to the same destination of self realization or Nirvana. All of them became omniscient, but by different way of life

'Karmmarg' gives importance to duty done with perfection. One should remain unattached to the outcome. Whereas 'Bhakti Marg' teaches devotional prayers, compassion, love for everybody & everything. The last is 'Yogmarg'. It is difficult to train the mind for renunciation by incessant practice of Asan, Pranayam, Mudra, Dhyan, Dharana & Samadhi." These people can talk to their soul. He gave many examples of the saints & sages who went by these paths & attained the same goal 'Nirvana'. Whatever was revealed to the sages in their blissful oblivion was manifested extempore, in the form of mantra, shlok, rucha in Ved & Upanishads. That was culminated into vedic literature, it is our great spiritual heritage.

Finally he said all my brothers come to earth to show right

path to the devotees and ultimately to see divinity. Such an elaborate explanation made Balabhau emotional. He got ready to take over the spiritual knowledge from the saint.

56. Omnipresent Shree Gajanan

Marutipant Patware was a sincere devotee of Maharaj. He had a caretaker on his farms named Timaji. Once Timaji fell fast asleep. Some donkeys attacked the standing crops & started eating the grain. Maharaj was omniscient, he woke Timaji from sleep, giving an alarm, Timaji was nervous to see the donkeys spoiling the crop. He became anxious as he had a great sense of responsibility. He went to Marutipant that morning & told the incident .He begged his pardon. Maruti was to visit Shegaon the same morning so he did not visit fields immediately. He told Timaji,"I will look into it later." Maharaj personally guarded Maruti's fields. Maruti went to Shegaon. He was overwhelmed by the limitless kindness of Maharaj& to hear the same news from Maharaj. He was assured further that Maharaj always looks after his disciple who has taken refuge in him.

57. Maharaj imparted knowledge of Yog

Once Ramchandra Nimonkar & Vasudeo Bendre went to Mukana river near Nasik. As it was auspicious to bathe in it, he took bath & started practising yogsadhana. Surprisingly he saw a Yogi sitting in deep meditation who had mastered his wavering mind to become perfect & tenacious Yogi, Nimonkar requested to enlighten him about that, so Maharaj gave him a unique mantra & told him that mind is hard to restrain. It is wavering & restless, practise constantly to subdue your passions & to concentrate on mind & body. He also told to do some asanas to make body flexible, Maharaj also gave him a red pebble from river Narmada & asked him to worship it as Lord Ganesha, the deity of knowledge. Nimonkar followed him & met again in Dhumal's house. He was eager to understand the name of the sage, Maharaj gave a hint, My name is 'Gajanan' another name of Ganesha. Nimonkar was very pleased. He gradually became an expert in Yogsadhana.

58. One should honour one's promise

Tukaram Kokate of Shegaon was unfortunate that his progeny was not surviving. Maharaj was a steadfast supporter of him. He begged for mercy. After few years he was blessed with three children but he forgot the promise which he had given to Maharaj. Once his oldest son Narayan got severely ill. Doctors tried hard to cure him but was in vain. He was literally on the death bed. Tukaram remembered that he failed to keep promise given to Maharaj. So again he worshipped Maharaj with true devotion to save his son's life. Narayan was out of woods by God's grace. Then he lived in the service of Maharaj, as his father promised Maharaj. This episode gives a warning, that a person gives tall promises when he is in misery but forgets to honour it.

59. Pandharpur deity & Maharaj had tears

In the month of Ashadh, Maharaj went to Pandharpur with Hari Patil to see supreme Almighty, God Vitthal. He was the protector of all according Vedant. Maharaj had humble appeal to him, "I have lived in this world as per your wish to fulfill desires of the devotees. Now my mission is over. Give me permission to quit this world, virtually to stay at your feet." At this thought tears rolled down with the feeling of fulfillment. Hari Patil was anxious to know what had happened? He asked Maharaj whether he had hurt him. But Maharaj explained him that it was beyond his perception and also told that their association was going to come to an end in a couple of days. Afterwards they both returned to Shegaon.

60. Nirvan on 8th September 1910

In the month of Bhadrapad, we bring idols of Lord Ganesh on chaturthi & immerse it on the next day after worshipping, offering modaks & sweets. Though it is a sad moment to part with, still we do it. In the same manner Maharaj said, "Immerse my body on the day of Rushi Panchami. As Bhagavadgita says, the soul changes the body. The soul is immortal. The other saints also did the same. Don't think of separation. Keep up the devotion. Never ever forget me. I am here to bestow all sorts of help & blessing on you". He stopped the breath by pranayam, he pulled it up his head

& uttered 'Jai Gajanan' & took samadhi on 8th September 1910.

The heart breaking news spread in no time. Entire Shegaon was plunged into sorrow & tears. The devotees started rushing to the temple as if they lost their father. He was a guardian, savior, counselor, mentor & what not ! It was difficult to console the devotees bereft of their father. Maharaj was shifted to the decorated chariot. The huge crowd witnessed his last journey. All of them were chanting Bhajans in respect of Maharaj. Tulsi, Gulal & Bukka was showered on him. People were distributing prasad. Finally the procession reached the monastery. With all rituals & rites the body was rested on the samadhi place. Prayers were offered for ten days & are still continuing. The invisible flame of the supreme saint is still realized there which gives our mind sanctity. We get unflinching assurance from the protector & preserver.

61. Ganpat's generosity

People in Shegaon were still in the feelings of gloom & doom. Everyone was trying to console each other. They were deprived off their source of knowledge & guidance, but it was seen through many incidents that the same assurance was available at the Samadhi of Maharaj with the same integrity

The days were passing by. Ganpat Kothade an agent of a company used to come & sit near samadhi, sings prayers as usual. On Dassera he performed Pooja & decided to offer food to the people in the town. Instead of spending for his own family, he was spending for the rituals. This was not acceptable to his wife, she protested the idea. But Maharaj came in her dream & told "The more we donate to the people, the more we receive in the form of blessings. This is the way to attain fulfillment in life & utmost pleasure." The Couple had immense faith in Maharaj, it was increased multi told.

62. Maharaj was seen at Boribandar station (Mumbai)

Laxman Hari Janjal was one of the close devotees of Maharaj. After his Nirvana, Hari neglected devotion. He visited Mumbai for his work, but he was frustrated by some family matters. He saw a sage with saffron cloths, long arms who was chanting

God's name constantly. He approached him at Boribandar Station & gave some clue of his previous life and the reason for his frustration. He told Laxman that he had lost interest in devotion. This incident was an eye opener for Laxman. Now he corrected his behaviour. He started performing all rituals & stayed happily.

63. River 'Man' was flooded. Maharaj rescued Madhav Joshi

Madhav Joshi was a Government officer. He desired to visit Shegaon. After his day's work he took a bullock cart & started along with his assistant Kutubuddin. All of a sudden the weather changed drastically, black clouds gathered in the sky. With violent storm & lightning, started a down pour. The river 'Man' was flooded within no time. The bullock cart was crossing the river. Kutubuddin was frightened to death. Joshi was also scared a lot, both were drenched & started praying the saint. It was a natural calamity. None except Almighty could rescue them was their faith. He told Kutubuddin to leave the reins of the bullocks at the hands of Maharaj. He closed eyes & started worshiping whole heartedly. What a miracle ! the cart had safely crossed the river & was standing on the other bank near Shegaon. They realised that it was the authority of Maharaj . They went running to samadhi, bowed down & expressed gratitude to Maharaj for the rescue from the dreadful catastrophe. Joshi offered food to many people to celebrate the joy.

64. No luck but blessings of Maharaj gave hand

Yadav Ganesh Subhedar, a devotee was a trader in cotton at Hingani. He failed in his business & had a tremendous loss. He was suppressed by the negative thoughts. When he was sitting at his friend's house at Wardha, an old beggar came at the door asking for alms. Subhedar thought for a while. That beggar looked counterpart of Maharaj, so Subhedar was confused. He offered the dole. The beggar also gave some hints of Yadav's previous life so he was convinced that the beggar was no one else but a duplicate of the sage. & that was right. The beggar gave blessings & disappeared. There was no trace further, but as per the hint given, Yadav's stars were rising. He got a good profit in the next

consignment. He was blessed by Maharaj in disguise. This was an epitome of motherly love. None but the saints bestow on us.

65. Bhau Kawar lost the familiar route.

Doctor Bhau Kavar was transferred to Telhara. Before joining the new job he wished to visit samadhi. He hired a bullock cart to visit Shegaon. He took darshan and started immediately from Shegaon. Balabhai requested him to take prasad & then return the next day, but doctor was in a hurry, so he started late evening from Shegaon. The night became darker. He missed the route and stranded on a narrow path. Bhau started abusing the cartman for his mistake. The cartman was very familiar to the route so he was perturbed to see how the bullocks went in wrong direction. The whole night their cart traversed in the outskirts of shegaon. Dr. Kavar faintly guessed the cause of the event, so he again returned to Shegaon in the morning, took prasad, then proceeded. No doubt ! The invisible flame of the powerful sage offers protective shadow to his devotees & even it is a source of inspiration for all the work done here by the devotees at shegaon.

66. Maharaj, the ultimate power

A person named Ratansa had a year old child who was sick for many days, he had fever so he became very very weak. He had no relief by the medication of the doctors. The baby stopped taking milk & cried the whole day. Ratansa & his family could not tolerate that. All of them had a great concern. Ratansa was constantly meditating on the hymn of Shree Gajanan from the inner sanctum of his heart & was begging for the life of his kid., few minutes passed in grave silence & miraculously the child started showing some positive signs& then.... it was gradually recovered by the grace of Maharaj. It was a definite result of astute devotion of Ratansa & his strong conviction.

67. Maharaj an epitome of mother's love

Ramchandra Patil's daughter Chandrabhaga was down with abnormally high fever after her delivery. No doctor could diagnose her disease exactly. Patil was totally surrendered to the saint. He brought holy 'Angara' & 'Tirtha' from samadhi & gave to

his daughter with utmost faith. As soon as she sipped the 'Tirth'. She started recovering gradually & the ailment took a back foot. Sincere worship to such devout saint never go waste. It is a pious achievement by itself.

Like the innumerable stars in the sky. The saint's myriad blessings can't be described in words. He makes the life of the devotees better than best. He is always a torch bearer in their life to show the right path.

68. Shree Gajanan Maharaj gave a phenomenal experience

Construction work of the temple was in progress. A laborer working at the top of the building, helping a mason lost his balance & fell down straight from a height. He fell on the heap of stones. People saw him tumbling down, many of them rushed to the spot and were disheartened to see, but..... the laborer was saved, unhurt. What a miracle ! He said, "When I was falling from height of about thirty feet someone had caught me in the arm & put me down on the ground.. I call myself very lucky that the saint offered a hand to save me, but when I stood on the ground like a spring doll. I could not see anybody." The people gathered around him told him that Maharaj took him in his lap, so all the spectators gaped in silence & adored the incredible savior.

69. A Rajput lady from Jaipur

She also experienced the supernatural power of Shree Gajanan Maharaj. She had come to the temple with her children on the occasion of Ram Navmi. The temple was under repair. Strong stone pillars were erected to give support to the building. The lady stood rested at the pillar to avoid the mad rush gathered in the temple. Accidentally the pillar fell on her & crushed her. People were afraid that the lady must have died under the pillar but no... way! it was the saint's grace ! The lady was saved & was taken to Dr. Lobo (who was a devotee of Jesus Christ). While treating her, the doctor had tears of joy in her eyes to see her unhurt. Afterwards they understood that falling of pillar liberated her from the ghost spirit which was troubling her. The lady recovered & went to Jaipur with her children, happily with lots of blessings of Maharaj.

70. Ramchandra Patil a reverent devotee

Maharaj went in sadhu's garb to the house of a sincere devotee Ramchandra Patil. He respectfully gave him food & worshipped him. He had wild guess that Maharaj had come in disguise of sadhu & his guess was true. Sadhu blessed him & told him, "not to worry about your debts & never be jealous about anybody, instead respect saints & sages, follow their words as simple guidelines." He added further, "Almighty keeps a track of everybody's good or bad acts." & disappeared in a moment. Ramchandra was very uneasy the whole day, but at night Maharaj came in his dream to clear his doubt & told him that he should take up the management of the temple .

Several incidents occurred like the some mentioned here, many devotees were lucky to live in his association directly or indirectly. They received his divine blessings .

The saga of the great sage explains the glory of the mission, to spread love, sympathy, sacrifice, importance of duty to the world. He is an incomparable example of piety. All the devotees donated thousands of rupees & constructed the temple. Now it is known as Shri Gajanan Maharaj Sansthan, dedicated to the motto 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina'.

The devotees are scattered all over the globe. He keeps a careful eye on every soul who chants his name throughout the life. If he is at the headship one can face daunting challenges in life & fulfill one's dreams.

I take great pleasure to narrate the incidents actually happened in his life. Not a single word is written with exaggeration. I really feel that it is got done from me by him. As a token of gratitude I humbly offer this bouquet of flowers at his feet and worship him to accept my endeavour & bestow blessings on everyone & all, who have subtle awareness of the divine power which helps to achieve the goal of life & get eternal bliss.

|| GAN GAN GANAAT BOTE ||
|| SHUBHAM BHAVATU ||

Manjiri R. Gokhale
9870626573

GURUPOURNIMA 2015

|| Jai Gajanan ||

|| Gan Gan Ganaat Bote ||



**Sadguru Samadhi, Shegaon
8 Sept 1910**



Anand Sagar, Shegaon

