

**TRAILBLAZER**

Trailblazer October 2024  
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**Edited By : Rishi Zaveri**

**CONTACTS :-**

**MUMBAI : PRATHIK BHAI**

93232 29655

**CHENNAI : LAKSHYA SHAH**

81488 36505

**SURAT : ASHISHBHAI MEHTA**

93745 12259

**AHMEDABAD : HETAL BHAI**

94262 41004

**Designed By | Executed | Printed By :**

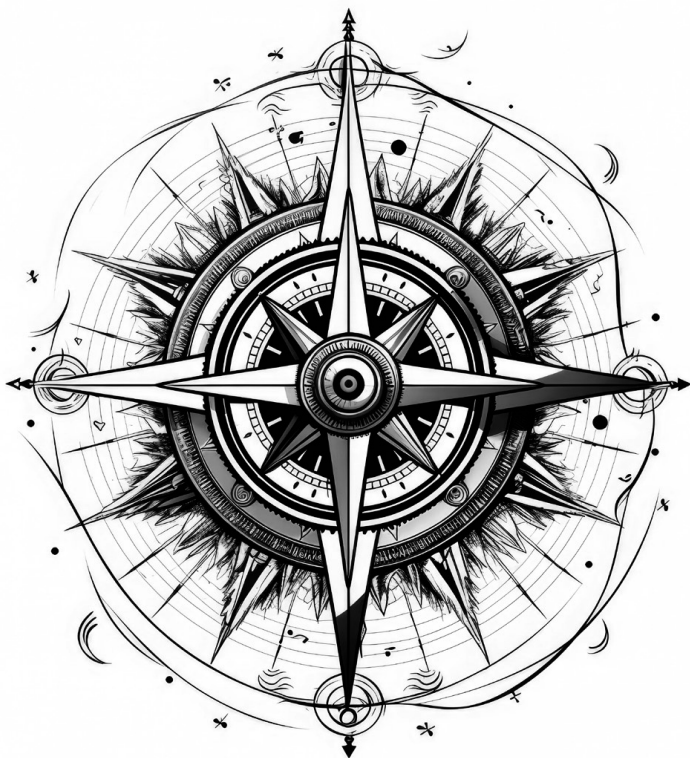
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# TRAILBLAZER

A Blend Of Facts With The Trend Of Scriptures



# MY MASTER'S MARVEL

अहं नमः

अंग्रेजी भाषा मुझे आती नहीं है। इसलिए इस किताब में क्या क्या लिखा है, वो मुझे पता नहीं है।

इतना पता है कि दुनिया की आश्चर्यकारी चीजें जैनधर्म के सिद्धान्तों के अनुसार कैसे सही साबित होती हैं, वो इस किताब में आपको जानने को मिलेगा। इससे जैनधर्म के प्रति प्रीति, विश्वास बढ़ेगा,

वस, हमारा मकसद एक ही है कि हितम आत्मा जिनशासन की सच्चाई को समझे, माने और अपनी आत्मा का हित करे....

यह किताब अजैनो को जैन और जैनो को सच्चा जैन बनाएगी, वसा मेरा मानना है।



मेरे शिष्य मुनि भवविर विजय की यह  
प्रथम किताब है, इनका ज्ञान, पदार्थ  
समझने का तरीका, समर्पण भाव, शान्द्वि  
जलरदस्त है। आप को पढ़ते ही समझ  
में आ जायेगा, मुझे बताने की भी  
ज़रूरत नहीं।

आत्मा को नुकसान करने वाली कोई  
भी चीज बुराई है, भले ही वो संस्कृत  
भाषा में लिखा हुआ शृंगारशतक है ---  
आत्मा का रित करने वाली कोई भी चीज  
सुंदर है, भले ही वो अंग्रेजी किताब हो ---  
युगप्रधानाचार्यसम पूज्य गुरुदेवजी  
चन्द्रशेखरविजयजी का शिष्य  
मुनि गुणराम विजय

# Mrs. Perin Bagli



*“I promise by my sacred truth  
O Master Mine! when I sail forth  
In calm or stormy life of mine  
Shall prove a noble child of thine.”*

*- The Inner Voice of a Student*

**Dedicated To:**

The Honourable Principal  
of  
Activity High School

**Mrs. Perin Bagli**

&

My sisters,  
Bottomless Reserves of Care,

**Gazal Shah**  
**Geet Shah**  
**Anmol Shah**

# CONTENTS

Introduction : Driven By Curiosity

## **KARMIC CREATIONS**

Abnormality	9
You Cannot Die	19
Alterations	35

## **BEYOND BELIEF**

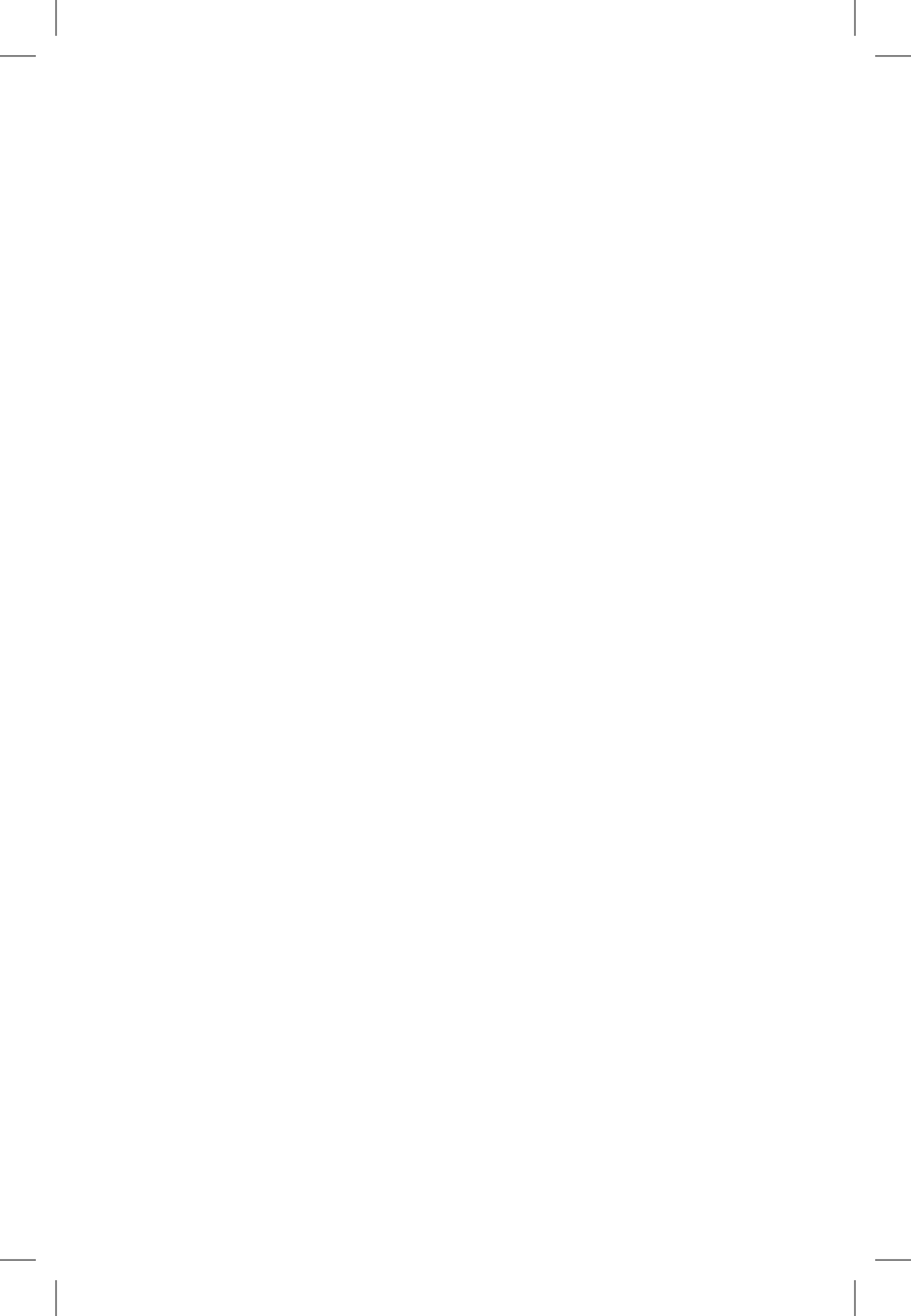
Charismatic Change	51
Impossible	66
Tectonics	79

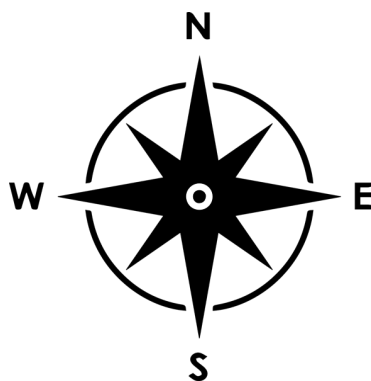
## **UPLIFT**

The School of Hard Knocks	95
Your Way in Your Way	123

## **A DIVE WITHIN**

Maya And Mimicry	139
The Silent Preacher	148
Last Seen: 26/11/2008	169





## Introduction

### Driven By Curiosity

Hailing from Mumbai, the city of dreams, I too had a long list of dreams. Just as the many young guns of this generation, I aspired to thrive in multiple spheres – academically and athletically. By God's grace, I was endowed with diverse skills, and my dreams were on the verge of materializing. Monkhood was never even in my wildest dreams.

On one side, I was chasing my dreams with determination. On the other, the city's dominant

culture overwhelmed me, slowly eroding the goodness that remained within me. I let my lifestyle descend to the lowest possible levels. Loads of vile habits infected my daily life. Innumerable, unspeakable acts made me no less than a criminal. Mentioning those events would really be pointless, because just a couple examples would not justify the reality. It was just filth within and around me. The indulgence in sensual pleasures drove me to madness. I was no different from the rude, party-going teenagers of today who couldn't care less about the world. Forget sainthood—in my frantic pursuit of worldly success and carnal pleasures, even the faintest trace of spirituality was far beyond my reach, in a realm that seemed completely inaccessible.

Undergoing a dramatic transformation in my personality from such a state was a laughable idea. But things don't happen the way you expect. There was a twist in the tale which left me and my close ones transfixed. That twist was driven by none other than unmatched curiosity.

Like many other teenagers, my mind was also logic-oriented. I demanded answers to the thousand events occurring worldwide every day. Why was Paris attacked? Why were many innocent people killed? Why is there racism amid humanity? Why are some



people, like Elon Musk, relishing the zenith of luxury while others are still stuck in the lap of poverty? Though being physically fit, why do people just suddenly perish? Why do these natural calamities happen if God was running this world? The list of questions began outstripping my list of ambitions.

I wanted to get to the depth of the outward world. I started feeling that this world is not just what we see externally. There has to be a universal system running this world from within. But what all was a part of this system? Science provides answers, but only for things that are visibly evident. My questions, however, were about the unseen laws of the universe— areas where science had no answers. I had to find an authentic source of knowledge which could rationally clear my doubts. In search of these answers, my curiosity was propelling me to my destined destination.

With a passionate urge of finding a logical conclusion to my queries, I came across the fundamental scriptures of Jainism. They made real sense. Every concept was fitting in my head with thorough logic. My questions were being answered and my doubts cleared. My curiosity kept pushing me further. After studying the foundational scriptures, I wanted to reach the core. However,

those deeper texts were accessible only to ascetics, requiring significant sacrifices on my part.

On one side were my monumental dreams and worldly pleasures, while on the other were the answers to all my questions and the essence of life. I was stuck...

The inspirational lives of Lord Mahaveer and others proved immensely helpful, as they illustrated an important law:

*To Get the Ulterior  
You Must Get to the Interior*

If I really wanted the ulterior, then I had to work on my interior. Transitory dreams or eternal answers? The pleasures of life, or the essence of life? It was all my call...

Driven by curiosity, I made my call and delved into the core scriptures of Jainism. Numerous events worldwide began revealing their connection to these scriptures. The *Dvatrinshad Dvatrinshika* teaches that every conversation on earth, regardless of its topic, is linked to the vast teachings within Jain scriptures. Everything was becoming much clearer. All my questions were being answered with undeniable logic, and this experience

continues to grow more blissful with each passing day.

Today, I can confidently coin my past dreams and ephemeral pleasures as just “so-called dreams and pleasures”. Now, my singular motive is to spread this fact amongst the youth that there is an abundance of logic in Jain scriptures. On one side are the scriptures, and on the other are the millions of unique occurrences in the world. It was simply the bridge between the two which was lacking.

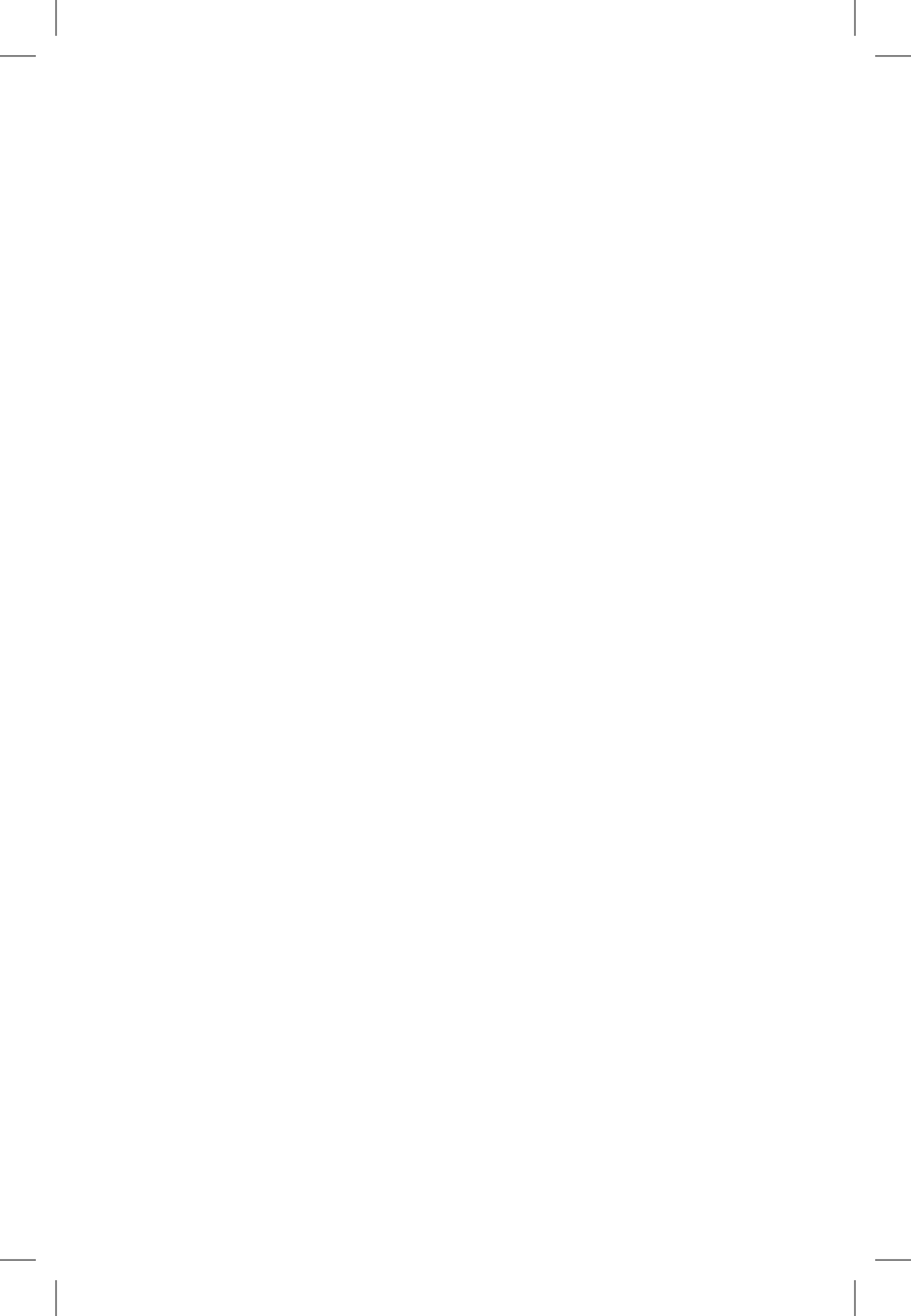
I came up with these writings to form that bridge, and show the youth and the world that religion does not just mean spirituality. It means “the blunt fact of life”.

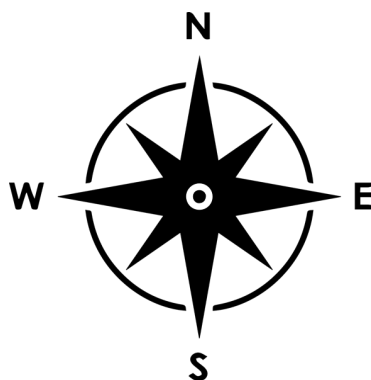
A surge of unrivaled gratitude flows through every vein in my body towards the omnipotent teacher of these flawless concepts – our Lord, the Trailblazer. He, all alone, chose the path of reality and blazed the trail. If not in conduct, then at least in clarity, I now wish for myself and the world to ***Trail the Trailblazer.***

– Bhavavirah



# KARMIC CREATIONS





## Abnormality

**K**ARMA.... A tiny, invisible thing making the whole world dance to its tune. It's connected to each and every form of living-organism, breathing soundlessly even in the remotest and darkest possible places on earth. It's the most prominent cause for all the effects, variations and changes taking place on earth, from the smallest to the largest.

Karma possesses a variety of filters, which exceed even the quadrillionth square of quadrillion in number. With the sole help of these vivid filters, Karma has entirely concealed every soul and its

everlasting nature, giving it completely different characteristics which never belonged to it.

## Karmic Eclipse

Though these souls externally stand as completely different entities, the majestic nature within all of them has stood downright indifferent since ages. Unfortunately, these varied filters of karma have eclipsed this eternal nature of every soul and presents them as if they all possess an utterly unique nature, which changes from time to time.

This is Karma's Extraordinary Exhibition which gives an extrinsic appearance to the soul but at the same time demolishes the intrinsic qualities.

One of the simplest and greatest punchlines of all times

**“अकम्मस्स ववहारो न विज्जइ,  
कम्मुणा उवाही जायइ ।”**

~ Aachaaraanga, Adhayana-3, Uddesh-1

It says that “There is no identification of a soul without Karma... All the non-realistic filters are nothing more than karma's creation.”



## Naam Karma

Karma has many divisions and sub-divisions, of which, one division is Naam karma. It is solely responsible for giving every soul a unique physical look. It's compared to a highly talented artist.

Let me make you aware of the fact that this artist's talent can range from making the soul appear fabulous to making it look demonic. He can grow really wild. Do you wish to have a glimpse of to what extent he can grow wild? "Yes..." Then shatter all the cowardice within you and cautiously step ahead.

Naam karma has a diverse set of sub-divisions which play a crucial role in the soul's outward appearance. Those having a significant role to play in the following cases, are Upghata, which generates an extra or an elongated body part, Nirmana, which places a particular organ in its prospective place and Sansthan, Bandhan, and Sanghatan whose job is to shape the body and a particular part.

*Let's take-off the flight*

*To take-off the veil from this sight*

### **1) Liu Hua: Tiangsu, China**

He suffers from ‘Macroductyly’ a congenital condition. A congenital condition means a condition by birth. In this disease the toes or fingers are abnormally large, which can be seen in the picture. It is believed to occur because of an abnormal nerve supply or by an abnormal blood vessel.

He had to undergo an operation, through which 5 Kg of tissue had to be removed from his left index finger, middle finger and thumb.

Before the operation, his thumb measured 26 cm long, his index finger was 30 cm and the middle finger was 15 cm long. Shocking but true - his thumb and index finger were thicker than his arms. The total weight of his left arm was a whopping 10 Kgs.

### **2) Josephine Myrtle Corbin: United States**

She had four legs and, as a result, was billed as the “Four Legged Woman.” The startling reason behind her four legs is that she had the lower limbs of her unformed twin growing from her pelvis. These limbs were too weak to stand and her original right leg had a clubbed foot and so only one of

her four legs was of use. She had five children after marrying Dr. Clinton Bicknell at the age of 19.

### **3) Dede Koswara: Indonesia**

This Indonesian was called “tree man”. Not at all surprising to be given such a name after a cursory glance at his photo. After cutting his knee as a teenager, a small wart developed on his leg. It spread uncontrollably so most of his body was encased in such peculiar treelike growths. He has undergone nine operations to remove more than 8 kgs of gnarled warts from his body.

This condition is thought to be caused by the Human Papilloma Virus, which usually causes only small warts, but if the patient suffers from a particular immune-system deficiency, then the body is unable to control the warts and allows the virus to spread and produce extreme growths known as “Cutaneous Horns”.

### **4) Arthur Loos: Pate Buns Lau, Poland**

This man had huge folds of skin hanging down from his face. He suffered from neurofibromatosis, which causes the wildest possible skin ab-

normalities. He performed at the Ripley's Auditorium in Chicago in 1933.

## **5) Anita**

She was coined as “the only human on earth with a nose like an elephant’s trunk”. She performed at the Coney Island Sideshow in New York, in 1944. During this time Coney Island was renowned as the world center of the amusement park industry.

## **6) Liu Ge: Beijing, China**

He has a nose that is nearly 10 cm long and 7.5 cm wide. He had been drinking up to 2 liters of brandy a day for 52 years and it has left him with a condition called rhinophyma, caused by the constant expansion of blood vessels in his nose.

## **7) Santlal Pal: Mumbai, India**

He can be called the “Double Header”. In February 2018, doctors in Mumbai, India, removed the heaviest recorded brain tumour from 31-year-old Santlal Pal in a marathon seven-hour procedure.

The 1.87 kg tumour was protruding from his scalp, causing swelling, headaches and blindness in both eyes. It also seems as if he has another head growing on top of his actual one. The growth was not only inside the brain but also outside it, between the skull and scalp. He recovered after his operation but his blindness was still left uncured.

### **8) K. Palanisami: Tamil Nadu, India**

He has 5 tumours that weigh a fearsome total of more than 18kgs. The growths first appeared when he was 12 yrs old. He has 2 on each of his arms and one on his neck that affects his speech.

After several tests doctors are mystified by the lumps and hesitate to remove them out of fear that the operation could turn out to be very fatal. He lives with his brother and sister-in-law, who take care of him.

### **9) Khadija Khatoon: Kolkata, India**

The kind of face she possesses would earn her the name “Faceless Woman”. She was born with a facial condition that has left her with no discernible eyes. In place of her nose there are just small slits.

According to one neurosurgeon she suffers from neurofibromatosis, a genetic disorder that causes tumours to grow throughout her body. The doctors even now believe the possibility of the tumour right inside her face. Her condition has worsened over time.

Her demonic face can traumatise even the most stone-hearted person, at least for a moment or two. In spite of her struggles, she remains optimistic and says she is “happy in this life.”

### **10) Gurmeet Singh: New Delhi, India**

His giant tumour really looks spine-chilling. In October, 2015, medical science came across the world’s largest tumour in its history.

This tumour began to grow on the thigh of his right leg, and it eventually grew devastatingly dangerous. He was bedridden for almost four years after a biopsy report confirmed the inflammation in his right thigh to be cancerous. Doctors were left with no other option than to amputate his leg to remove the enormous and deadly growth.

The tumour alone weighed 1.5 times Gurmeet’s weight. The tumour was a colossal 55kg while Gurmeet was just 37kg.



Everyone definitely would be aware of this saying that ‘Truth is always bitter’. These cases might doubtlessly be running beyond the horizon of our belief, but these aren’t running beyond the horizon of truth. Only bitter truth is what these are.

After coming across these occurrences, for a few minutes, I was not only transfixed by such weird happenings, but even the small thought of the agony of these people petrified me. A drop of tear was about to run down the cheek in the name of these people. God! Make these incidents the last occurrence on earth... Let history never repeat itself.....

## **Coming to Conclusion...**

All of these terrifyingly lethal happenings are nothing more than karma’s unrealistic filters. They are surely Karma’s creation, but, do not ever let this fact elude our foolish minds that these demonic Karmas are the soul’s creation.

If we do the same as what these people might have done in some of their lives, then we too

could become the next target of this karma.

Our Lord – the trailblazer, has beaten the best possible path. We simply need to trail Him if even a glint of desire in de-rooting all these false filters lies within our eyes.

*Begin Your Travel  
To Reach His Level*





# Abnormality



Liu Hua: Tiangsu, China



Josephine Myrtle Corbin: United States



Dede Koswara: Indonesia



Arthur Loos: Pate Buns Lau, Poland



Anita



Liu Ge: Beijing, China



Santlal Pal: Mumbai, India



K. Palanisami: Tamil Nadu, India



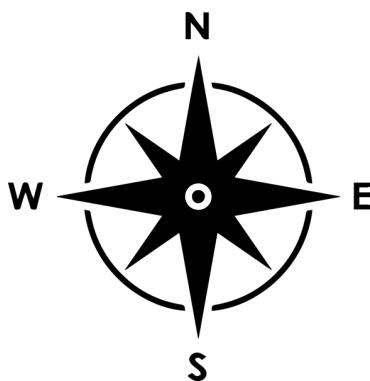


Khadija Khatoon: Kolkata, India



Gurmeet Singh: New Delhi, India





## You Cannot Die

**D**estiny, when it wants, can independently or with the slightest support of a negligible instrument, blow its targeted person out of the world. Equally, when it does not, even the deadliest instruments will go in vain to shift the soul to its next abode.

It's all in the hands of Destiny...

At times, Destiny puts up a dramatic show by treating people with sheer disdain. It seems as if it is making them crawl towards death. It drags them and puts them face to face against death, and then dramatically pulls them out of death's way.

It acts as if its intentions are deadly, making others assume its desire. We feel that Destiny wants to end this person's life, but the fact is that it's playing a completely different game. A game which is hidden behind a veil.

We presume Destiny to be presenting its plan with uncertainty. Yes!!! It is doubtlessly not clearly presenting them, but there is no confusion in its mind. It is definitely orchestrating the plot as intended, and the skillful elegance needed to carry out these horrific plans lies only and only with Destiny.

We consider a particular instrument or a reason in one's death, but how dare we forget that no instrument can be played on its own. There is something that's playing the instrument and that can be none other than the mighty Destiny.

In millions of cases, Destiny, not intending to hand the victim over to death, has originated every possible situation where the person has tasted death, and then stepped back.

One example of its dramatics can be explicitly understood in the life of Daamanak.

Destiny, in the form of Aayushya Karma, played a notorious role in his life. One after the other, defenseless circumstances sprung up in front



of him. Being quite timid and unknown to the disastrous plans of others, Daamanak kept going with the flow.

Destiny, on the other hand, was quite aware of its role. In spite of knowing the situation, Daamanak foolishly did nothing to protect himself, but Destiny did not fail in being his life guardian in all those situations.

## **Daamanak**

Daamanak was born at a merchant's house in a prosperous city and the capital of the Magadh Empire, Rajgruhi. He grew older, and was just eight years old when a fatal, contagious plague broke out in the city.

His whole family became victims of this plague, and after quickly knowing this fact, the neighbours sealed the house by nailing a tight fence around it.

Though his family was suffering from this plague, the plague did not dare to creep close to Daamanak. Eventually, his family released their final breaths and Daamanak managed to escape the plague and flee through the fences.

He grew older, residing in random empty

houses.

One day, a wealthy merchant named Samudradatt looked upon him compassionately. He took him home, provided him with the required necessities, and kept him as his domestic help.

Once, a couple Jain monks visited Samudradatt's house and saw Daamanak. One of the monks told the other that, one day, Daamanak is going to own this huge house. This was heard by Samudradatt, but that did not sit in his head comfortably.

"Monks speak what's destined, and what's destined has to happen."

Despite being well aware of this fact, he could not face it. He decided to act against the monk's words, and prepared a plan to end Daamanak's life.

### **Plot 1:**

First, he hired a chandaal (an extremely cruel and lowly man) privately to finish Daamanak off, and then ordered Daamanak to go with the chandaal to his place and bring back money he had lent. The chandaal took Daamanak to his house with the excuse of giving back Samudradatt's money. They crossed his house and still walked ahead. The chandaal brought him to a secluded spot and revealed

his dagger. He was about to chop off Daamanak's head when a loving feeling towards Daamanak suddenly touched his mind. He let him get away after only cutting off his thumb, which he handed over to Samudradatt as evidence of his murder. Daamanak fled with a feeling of horror still trapped in his chest.

## **Plot 2:**

He ran and reached a massive cow-shed, where he started staying peacefully. Unfortunately for him, that cow-shed was being run by none other than Samudradatt.

One day, Samudradatt came to check on the cow-shed and surprisingly saw Daamanak there. He confirmed him to be Daamanak by his chopped thumb. He recollected the monk's statement, but still he and his mind were striving hard for another plot.

He scribbled rapidly onto a piece of paper, signed it, and gave it to Daamanak. He told Daamanak to rush quickly to his house and hand it over to his son, Sagardatt. Daamanak, being very polite and obedient, followed the orders and sprinted to the house. Before reaching Samudradatt's house, he rested for a while at the outskirts of Rajgruhi.

He fell into a deep sleep. A wandering girl came to that same place. She saw Daamanak asleep and a small paper with him. She took out the paper, opened it and began to read:

*Son Sagardatt,*

*Without questioning it, just do as I say. Give this person Vish as fast as possible.*

*-Dad Samudradatt*

She thought that her father had gone mad. She cunningly added an 'a' to the word 'vish' and made it 'visha'. 'Visha' was none other than Samudradatt's daughter's name. Yes - her name itself!

Daamanak reached Samudradatt's house and immediately handed the note to Sagardatt. Sagardatt went through the small letter and, having no clue why his father was doing so, began preparations to get Daamanak and Visha married. He made the arrangements quickly and they became a newly married couple in no time.

The next morning, Samudradatt arrived

home and plunged into immense shock after knowing what had occurred. The monk's prediction began echoing in his mind. An unsettled feeling was encircling his heart.

### **Plot 3:**

Yet, he was still in no mood to give-up.

He requested Sagardatt to send the newly married couple to worship the Goddess, as per tradition; rather, a suddenly fabricated tradition. On the other hand, he strictly gave instructions to the previous chandaal to kill any man who enters the Goddess's temple this evening. He warned the chandaal furiously, that if he tried to act smart this time, there would be no one worse than Samudradatt himself.

Samudradatt and the chandaal took their positions before the couple entered the temple. They saw a couple entering in the dark and the chandaal shot an arrow after recognizing the figure of a man. The arrow went piercing through him and an agonizing shriek came out of his mouth. He was dead...

Samudradatt returned delightedly, and relief studded his face. He was full of ecstasy, but it was not

destined to stay long. He shockingly saw Daamanak at his house. A tremor was going through his mind and body. If he was here, then who was the man at the temple? His face turned white, his heart raced, and it gave up right on the spot upon realizing it was his own son, Sagardatt, who was the one killed at the temple.

While Daamanak and Visha were leaving for the temple, Sagardatt disallowed Daamanak to proceed with her. Instead of Daamanak, he himself had accompanied Visha to the temple, considering it important only for the bride to worship the Goddess.

The king, after learning of this incident, handed over all of Samudradatt's possessions to his son-in-law, and Daamanak became the sole owner of late Samudradatt's house. Later Visha explained to Daamanak about the 'vish' and 'visha' incident and told him it was none but herself who had done that.



Samudradatt's plots were carried out with incredible accuracy. No one on earth could have

escaped alive from such skillfully planned plots. In spite of these three murderous attempts, Daamanak was set free only because it was destiny's whole and sole will.

Destiny says-

*You cannot die  
Until I bid you goodbye*

This incident took place years ago and is quite unbelievable. But even this incident will somehow be overshadowed by the brutal happenings that unfold ahead.

Just keep this law in mind, because it will be all one can say after reading these occurrences.

***DESTINY WILLS, HE DIES  
DESTINY CHILLS, HE FLIES***

### **1) Hu Zhuyin: China**

He was a mere labourer working at a construction site in Qingdao, China. Yet, one day, an

unforgettable occurrence appeared in his life.

While climbing the scaffoldings, he slipped and fell in such an unbelievable manner that he got himself impaled on a crowbar.

The crowbar vigorously sliced through his chest and made him and the others watching thoroughly convinced about his death. There was no means by which one could even hope to witness him alive the next minute after being a victim of such a brutal accident.

BUT...he survived.

After closer inspection, it was found that the crowbar had narrowly missed his aorta by a mere half-inch (1cm). Had it not, he would have been travelling to his next life. It was one of the luckiest escapes in history. Destiny said 'He has to live.'

## **2) A Boy: Gothenburg, Sweden**

In September, 2014, a six-year-old boy suddenly fell from a 70ft (201m) high apartment balcony. Fatal collision with the ground and death were the only possible consequences, but there came a twist in the tale. Fortunately, a passerby stopped when he saw a boy falling from such a height and saved him by managing to catch him safely.



### **3) Hamar Singh Rajput: India**

He thought he was going to die any moment after being impaled harrowingly through the neck by 2 iron rods.

This 26-year-old Indian lost control over his motorcycle and by misfortune, slammed into the back of a truck carrying construction materials, including 3ft(1m) long iron rods.

The impact of the crash caused the rods to go all the way through his body and out his back. It took the doctors three hours to successfully remove them and amazingly, Hamar never lost consciousness throughout the painful ordeal.

### **4) Sophie Frost: Rayleigh, United Kingdom**

Sophie Frost, a school-going girl was struck by a 30,000-volt surge, but something saved her life. The iPod which she was using at the time of the lightning strike made the current travel through its wires, diverting it from her vital organs.

The thing that turns out to be even more surprising is that this iPod was gifted to her by her grandmother just four days before this incident. The saviour arrived on time.

### **5) Zhou: Zhuzhou, China**

In December 2018, this 29-year-old, was working at a porcelain factory when a piece of machinery malfunctioned and he was struck by a falling robot arm covered in steel spikes.

Each spike measured about 1ft (30cm) in length and 0.6in (1.5cm) in diameter. He was impaled by a total of 10 steel spikes with 6 of them entering his right shoulder, chest and arm, narrowly missing an artery by a baffling 0.04in (0.1cm).

This victim was taken to a local hospital by his co-workers, and then was transferred to Xiangya Hospital of Central South University due to the severity of his condition. He amazingly survived his distressful injury. This case was highly complex because it was impossible to even x-ray him before operating.

### **6) Venkata Ram Prasad: India**

On September 14, 2017, this 43-year-old man was stabbed in his neck. After this gruesome attack, he was driven 7 hours to a hospital. Later a CT scan revealed that the meat-knife was embedded 5.9in (15cm) into his neck, reaching his spinal cord.

Surgeons carefully removed the object, which shockingly left Venkata only with paralysis in his left hand. He too survived the blow.

## **7) Cava Felipe Massaneiro: Recife, Brazil**

In 2008, this 18-month-old toddler somehow plunged out of his third floor apartment window. The manner in which his life was saved is just indigestible.

Guess what saved him. His 'DIAPER'! Sounds funny, but it is the fact. His diaper snagged on a security spike, slowing his fall, and eventually saving him. Impossible to even dream of a diaper saving one's life.

## **8) A Construction Worker: Chengdu City, China**

This is one of the most incredible incidents that will paint your faces with utter disbelief. It's only possible for destiny to put up such a dramatic drama in the real world.

This worker suffered an electric shock and fell vertically onto a 4-ft long (1.2m) steel bar. Yes! He fell vertically. The bar penetrated into his body

through his buttocks and exited from his right shoulder. Except death, what other hopes would one have but there was a twist awaiting to be revealed. The bar did pierce into his body but luckily dodged all of his vital organs and then exited. It didn't cause any damage to his vital organs, and his life was spared.

### **9) Kyle Cook: Lakeland, Florida**

In 2012, a bolt of lightning knocked him back 6ft (1.8m), rendered him unconscious for a minute, and caused him to have a mild heart-attack. In April 2016, a recluse spider bit his left hand, requiring him to undergo surgery to drain the toxins. In August 2016, a rattlesnake attacked him in his backyard, resulting in another trip to the hospital, though luckily, the venom did not enter his bloodstream. Before those recent misadventures, he had also survived bites from an alligator and a Burmese python. Despite so many fatal happenings, death never knocked at his door.

### **10) Delarine Saisi: Nairobi, Kenya**

Bang!!! A block of a six storied building collapsed. It all shattered down and this seven-month-

old baby got stuck under the rubble. There were only ruins and four days passed, along with the hopes of seeing the baby alive. After 4 days she was pulled out from the ruins and was miraculously found alive.

## Conclusion

Daamanak was naturally rescued in all his plots because, in his previous life, he was a fisherman who, on a Jain monk's word, left fishing for the rest of his life.

His wife was completely agitated by his senseless decision, but could not modify his mind even an inch, even after striving thoroughly.

His fellow fishermen too forcibly made him continue fishing, but he used to free all his fish back into the lake. This happened three times, but he remained steadfast, honouring his vow with both dedication and determination.

The people involved in these accidents might have also done something virtuous for which they were spared and not put to death. But at the same time, they definitely had to undergo a lot of agony throughout the ordeal, as a result of their other violent deeds.

The rules for Daamanak were the same as

for others. We, too, are no exceptions. The same rules apply to us as well.

*More the compassion you generate  
For every creature on Earth,  
More the peace you generate  
In their lives*

*More the peace you generate  
In their lives,  
More the ecstasy you generate  
In your life*

*Every single thing  
Starts with you  
And ends with you*

*Love the world  
And then be  
Loved by the world*



# You Cannot Die



Hamar Singh Rajput: India

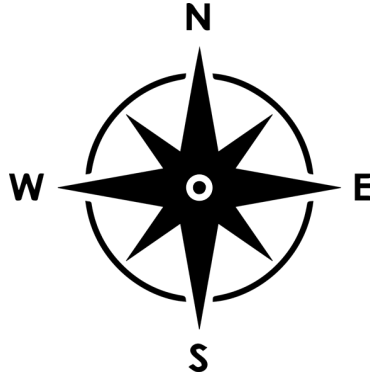


Zhou: Zhuzhou, China



Venkata Ram Prasad: India





# Alterations

“नाऽभुक्तं क्षीयते कर्म कल्पकोटीशतैरपि ”

You constantly attempt to drive out karma, but unwaveringly, it presents no signs of departure until its impact has been experienced.

“सकयं नासिज्ज कस्स किर कम्मं ”

-Whose self-generated karma would bid him goodbye?

Many such various writings point out this

one single fact- ‘Karma is inevitable.’ We believe it thoroughly in our hearts and explain this fact to numerous other people with such firm assurance that this concept gets drilled into their minds to the core. Then a long list of innumerable examples is placed in front of them, that not only enhances this bit of information, but fixes it irrevocably in their hearts.

But..

Are we through-and-through, spotless in believing this to be absolutely true???

Are all such punchlines flawless from all angles???

Are we able to accurately touch the faultless essence hidden in these lines while we staunchly hammer this concept into others’ brains???

The answer to all these questions is merely one.

## **A Big ‘No’**

This concept is obviously not wrong, but it doesn’t throw light onto the whole lot of Karma. It throws light only on a particular category of it called the *nikachit karma*, the unalterable karma.

This concept is true when its subject is *nikachit karma*, but not all categories of karma are unalterable.

## THEY CAN UNDERGO ALTERATIONS

How???

Let's See How...

**“उदय-खय-खओवसमो-वसमा जं च कम्मणो भणिया ।  
द्वं खित्तं कालं भवं च भावं च संपप्य ॥”**

- Vishesh Aavashyaka Bhaashya – 575

- Karma's alteration, in the form of uday, kshay, kshayopsham and upsham, is said to take place on the basis of five fundamental instruments.

### **Dravya – Kshetra – Kaal – Bhav – Bhaav**

In order to bring changes in the course of any karma, at least one of the five has to change.

The arrival, departure, or any kind of alterations of any of the five instruments, puts an end to the long-lasting continuity of a karma by deactivating it, or by activating another variant of karma which was inactive, but present in the background.

This process takes place irrespective of the karma's category. It may be a good or a bad karma that restarts or halts. It all depends on what sort of

instrument is brought into play.

These instruments might be brought into play intentionally by us, or they may simply arrive on the scene without us deliberately doing so.

But... the fact remains unchanged. The prospective changes by the newcomers will be generated irrespective of one's will.

Let's see how these five instruments have been playing an essential role in the modification of karma all over the world.

## **Dravya → Karma ↑ ↓**

Dravya means any kind of matter. It includes non-living objects and living things too like humans and animals.

### **1) Colin Seaman: Norfolk, England**

This man, at the age of 20, became a victim of an excruciating migraine. It struck him almost every day. All manners of drugs and injections were attempted in the hopes of successfully knocking his migraines off. He even clipped clothes pins onto his face, but only failure knocked at his door. It went on uninterrupted for a length of 50 years, and none

of his attempts proved impactful, possibly because they might not be the ones who could bring that change.

He was 70, and all his help had severely broken down, when the destined solution arrived. With some purpose, he got his ear pierced. And that was it. The migraine, from that moment, left his head completely vacant. It was that ear-piercing instrument that miraculously ended the 50-year-long pain, though he had not even intended to do so.

## **2) 900 People: Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia, Canada**

These people were gladly surfing the internet, when something dragged their karma into play, which made them lose their internet service. An important fiber cable in several locations, providing them with internet service, had been CHEWED BY BEAVERS. Though it was protected by a 4.5 inch-thick (11.4 cm) conduit, the beavers deprived these people of their internet service, by chewing through the fiber cable.

## **3) Jody Smith: New York City**

He suffered from epileptic seizures (sudden

attack of illness, especially in the form of a stroke or fits, which causes loss of consciousness or convulsions). To cure him, doctors removed a part of his brain, including the amygdala, the section responsible for how a person reacts to danger. As a result, he no longer has any feelings of fear. The removal of this part of his brain extracted his fear by deactivating it.

#### **4) Passengers in a Siberian Airline's Flight: Magadan, Russia**

On the 17th of August, 2020, this flight was attempting to land at the airport in Mangadan, Russia, but was delayed for 20 minutes. That reason for the delay was a bear on the runway! All the passengers landed 20 minutes later than expected.

This delay could not have come into existence without the triggering of the passengers' karma. The presence of the bear was cause for the trigger.

**Kshetra → Karma ↑↓**

Kshetra means any kind of place. It may be a city, a house, a garden or any such space.

## **1) The building of the Five Fishermen restaurant: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

This building, currently housing a restaurant, was once a morgue where dead bodies were brought following the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. As a result, the place was struck with ghostly vibrations causing the restaurant to be labeled as haunted.

In fact, it is not just said to be haunted, but because of the place's heart-throbbing eeriness, visitors have witnessed strange voices and cutlery flying off tables in the restaurant. This place induces chilling horror in the insides of the inside-goers.

## **2) A river in the Amazon rainforest: Mayantuyacu, Peru**

Any small animals like frogs that dive into the 6.4 km long and 24 m wide stretch of this river in the Amazon rainforest, instantly fall prey to death.

For less than half a second, a dipped human hand in this river gets third-degree burns.

Yes!!! The river in the water is BOILING, which causes such fatality. But this state of water is thought to be caused by hot springs that are fed

by a geological fault line. So, it's the geographic characteristics of the place causing all of this.

### **3) Twin Village: Velikaya Kopanya, Ukraine**

This village has 122 twins among their population of less than 4000. The true reason for such a high-rate is concealed behind the veil, but the villagers believe it to be the effect of the health-giving properties of the local water. This is even affecting the cattle, with above average births of twin calves.

Regardless of the reason, whether it's the local water or some other factor, this village is unusual and subject to this strange effect.

### **4) The Valley of Flowers: Himalayas**

There lies a place in the vast and enchanting mountain ranges of the Himalayas called 'The Valley of Flowers'. This place has such a weird energy that whosoever brings himself within the premises of this mysterious land forgets all his memories, to the extent that he even forgets his own name. He thereby behaves in a highly disoriented way. It's this mystical land that drains out all the memory from a person's brain.



## **Kaal → Karma ↑↓**

Kaal means time. It can be day or night, summer or winter, or any other period of time. All are a part of kaal.

### **1) Shoaib Ahmed and Abdul Rasheed: Balochistan, Pakistan**

These brothers lead very indifferent, active lives by day, but their nights work out in an utterly different fashion. At night, they are left paralyzed to such an extent that they are unable to even open their eyes, move, eat or talk. The locals have dubbed them as “Solar kids”, presuming they get energized by the sun. This folk theory was dismissed by doctors after observing that the brothers remain completely fine and active during a cloudy day or when kept in a darkened room during the day.

The rejection of this theory proves the karma to be definitely connected to kaal only, in a highly accurate manner. It's not the sun playing this role, only time acting upon them.

## 2) Tim Doucette: Quinan, Nova Scotia, Canada

Although he is legally blind (he has only 10% of the average vision during the day), he can see much more than an average person at night. As a teenager, he underwent an operation for his congenital cataracts, which removed his lenses and widened his pupils. As a result, his pupils now let in a lot of light which results in too bright and overexposed vision. But by night, he has tremendous vision and can pick out tiny subjects in the night sky which are invisible to others, making him a respected astronomer.

Here, kaal is not the only factor, but surely a prominent one in causing such peculiarities.

## **Bhav → Karma ↑↓**

Here bhav means life. It is basically classified into 4 types

**Humans**

**Animals**

**Celestial beings**

**Infernal beings**

Scriptures would be the only source for examples of this kind today, because the knowledge thriving beyond the senses is sheerly lacking.

Certain karmas find activation the moment the change of bhav occurs. Those karmas stay active till the continuity of that bhav, and later hold no guarantee for their continuation.

Avadhi and Vibhanga Gyan are qualities that are bound to get activated the moment a human or animal shifts to the life of a deva or naaraki.

## **Bhaav → Karma ↑↓**

Bhaav just doesn't mean feelings but it also means features, characteristics, style and all other abstract qualities, including karma itself.

### **1) A Suspect: Wiltshire, England**

One day, a police officer was chasing four suspects in the dark. Steve Hutton, the police officer, executed an idea in order to catch the suspect. He barked exactly like a dog so convincingly that one of the four suspects froze and gave himself up. The officer's idea and style brought the suspect,

who would have otherwise escaped, under captivity.

## **2) Michael Richardson: Quincy, Massachusetts**

He was driving his car while his 6-year-old son was seated behind. At a signal, in spite of the red-light blazing, he drove ahead and violated the law. There may have been no means to catch drivers violating the law, so he went ahead freely. To his astonishment, however, his violation was brought into awareness. Guess how??? His 6-year-old son, with a passion for being a police officer when he grows up, immediately called 911 to report it, and after making the operator aware of the violation, handed the phone to his father, who was then bound to apologize for it. A son's passionate vision brought even his father's violation into notice.

## **3) Laungi Bhuiyan: Kothilava, India**

His village was not receiving adequate rain-water, and that is when this man, Laungi Bhuiyan, began to do something that surely would be considered unsustainable by most. He began to DIG A CANAL ALL BY HIMSELF. Using only basic hand tools, he spent more than 30 years sin-

gle-handedly digging this 3 km long and 1.2 m wide canal, which brings the much-needed rainwater from the surrounding hill to a pond near the village.

It is so obvious that it just doesn't need to be stated, but still - it was not the canal or those tools or he who brought water flowing into the village, but only his undeterred determination. Without it, no other instruments would have been of any use at all.

Very truly said, "Determination can make mountains move."

#### **4) Wally the Walrus: Arctic coast of Greenland**

This walrus lived on the Arctic coast of Greenland, but one day found himself in County Kerry, Ireland. He wasn't supposed to go away from his home but one of his karmas brought this home-separation karma into activation.

He actually fell asleep on an iceberg, which began drifting away from his home coast. After lying asleep, he did not realize what had happened and ended up in County Kerry. This nidraa karma attracted the activation of his home-separation karma.

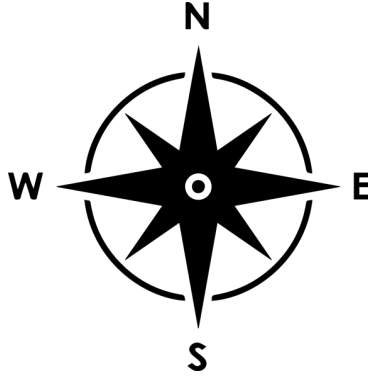
Over the next few months, he traveled thousands of miles around Ireland, England, France and Spain, using fishermen's boats as rest stops. Many boats resulted in waterlogging and were even sunk because of his massive 907 kg weight. One location prepared a pontoon for Wally to use instead of watercrafts and eventually he made it back safely to his home in the Arctic.



BEYOND  
BELIEF







## Charismatic Change

“The whole world is a theater of learning.  
You should not depend on me alone to teach you  
but should learn from everything.”

-Swami Rama's Master to him

**“सुदु गाड्यं सुदु वाड्यं, सुदु नच्चियं सामसुंदरि !  
अणुपालिय दीहराड्याउ, सुमिणंते मा पमायए ॥”**

-Hey beauty!!! You've sung melodically,  
played skillfully, danced exuberantly and passed the  
whole long night with unmatched enthusiasm. Now,  
at the very end of the night do not get carried away.

The girl put up a compelling show throughout the night, but at the very end, felt uncomfortably dizzy. Her sleep was outpacing her consciousness and she was losing her momentum when her mother, from backstage, sung these meaningful lines as part of the song.

Shulakmuni, who was a part of the huge audience, heard these words. They stuck right into the core of his heart and so he delightfully gifted her one of his only belongings, the ratnakambal.

He was born to a Jain Sadhvi and lived the ascetic life for more than half a century. During his teenage years, he no longer wished to carry on with such a life.

He approached his mother-Sadhvi to allow him to leave this life. She tried to make him understand, but he was now quite obstinate. Still, she forced him to follow monkhood for twelve years, only for the sake of her happiness.

After the completion of these twelve years, his mother-Sadhvi's Guru, Upadhyaya and Acharya did the same thing. This way, he dragged himself through these 48 years of sainthood without even a faintest passion for the life. He then left.....

The crucial shift, which couldn't be brought by tons of education, by significant and long 48

years, and above all, by the prolifically brilliant minds of giants, was brought by a casual statement of a dancing girl's mother.

Even after 48 years, his mother, Acharya and all others heartily longed for him to continue this life but failed to prevent him from carrying on as per his will. After this incident, his mindset changed. He even refused to accept the throne offered by his uncle and went straight back, accepted asceticism again and lived the rest of his life as a true holy saint.

## Mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century, India

### Scene 1:

“Now, my boy, visit Darjeeling”, said Swami Rama's master to him in a soothing voice that indicated ultimate spiritual bliss flowing in every vein of his body.

He said, “At the outskirts of this beautiful city, runs a tranquil stream, on the banks of which stands a cremation ground.”

Swami Rama was hearing every word with sheer anticipation and waited eagerly for the next to

come.

His master instructed him, “You have to earnestly follow a particular Sadhana, which I am going to teach you, for 41 days.”

Your mind will play games on you and will give its one hundred percent to diverge your concentration. That is its job and it’s going to do it. You need to unaffectedly stick to your Sadhana and thereby do your job.”

When it comes to isolating oneself in a cremation ground, most people go through a haunted feeling just by the thought of it and prefer to eagerly retreat from such Sadhana. But it was of least bother to Swami Rama.

In those days, he used to go to the university and it was his summer vacation, which he felt was best spent in a spiritual Sadhana.

“Very well! I shall do as you say master!” He replied optimistically and accepted the Sadhana.

## **Scene 2 :**

### **Cremation Ground, Outskirts Of Darjeeling**

Swami Rama, in company of himself, went to the place instructed by his master and lived in

a small thatched hut, where he would light his cooking fire.

He began his Sadhana wholeheartedly. Gradually, thirty-nine days passed in following the practices assigned to him. Surprisingly, he remained unchanged.

It wasn't long when nasty, powerful thoughts began hovering over his mind...

*What a foolish thing you are doing, wasting your time in a lonely place, cut off from the enjoyable world. You are wasting the best period of your youth.*

Within a moment, these negative thoughts were interjected by pure thoughts of his master's words.

"On the 41st day, you will definitely find some symptoms of improvement within yourself. Don't give up before that at any cost. Do not get swayed away by the ignoble suggestions of your mind. It will tempt you and drive you to impatience."

His master's face began flashing in his mind.

It wasn't too long before these noble thoughts vanished and were switched with another set of dissuasive thoughts.

*I had promised him to complete the Sadhna, but now I am left with no conceivable reason to carry on.*

*What dramatic difference these two days could make?*

*Hey guy! You are living among the dead. What kind*

*of nonsensical teaching is this? It is simply rubbish. Your master, by no measure, can be a good teacher.*

His logical mind was out-and-out flooded with such disgraceful thoughts and, as a result, the negative won over the positive with ease.

He decided to give up the Sadhana. He poured water over the fire, destroying it and ruined the hut. He wrapped himself in a warm shawl, because of the bitter cold night, and left the cremation ground, beginning his walk towards the city.

### **Scene 3 :** **Main Road, Darjeeling**

In just the last couple days, he fell short of temperament. He had surrendered to his mind in such a manner that now, none of his master's words were effective on him. They were all in vain.

Swami Rama trod along the path and reached the main road. He came within earshot of some kind of music.

“Dhik ...Dhik...” came the sound of the tablas. It was as if they were criticizing him by their sound....

“Fie on thee! What have you done?”

There was a gorgeous looking woman gracefully dancing and singing to the beats of the tabla. She kept on repeating a phrase again and again, which was the theme of the song.

*“There is very little oil in the vessel of life.  
And the night is still vast”*

Within seconds, he captured the life-changing essence of these cryptic words. He was downcast, realizing what he had done. An expression of gloom painted his face. This was the perfect arrow destiny had planned to pierce through the heart of his despondency. It had begun its job. Once again, the passionate drive to complete his Sadhana flared up in his mind.

*What have I done? Why don't I return back and finish my Sadhana? If I go like this to my master, he will surely not be delighted by my act. His words would doubtlessly be this – “You are expecting fruits before the plant has matured.” In the end, it was a promise that I'd willingly given to my master. I have to fulfill it. I have to complete my Sadhana.*

Now, back to form, he turned and went straight to the cremation ground beside the fast-flowing stream. He dwelled there for the next couple of days and brought a very successful ending to his 41-day- Sadhana.

On the forty-first day, the fruit of the practice appeared just the way his master had recounted to him, and the way he had dreamt it.

#### **Scene 4:**

#### **The Girl's House, Darjeeling**

Swami Rama, before leaving to meet his master, visited the city again.

He desperately wanted to see his 'mother' once - the girl who had inspired his mind to re-focus; the girl who was elegantly dancing and singing a couple nights prior.

He was strolling towards her house in his Swami-attire. That attractive girl saw him coming close to her house and shouted stiffly, "Swami! Stay where you are. Do not move ahead. You have landed up at a very wrong place."

Swami Rama continued his march towards the entrance door. She saw him still coming, so slammed the front door shut after letting her servant out.

"This is not the place you should intend to come", spoke the muscular looking servant with a blend of politeness and sternness in his voice.

He now understood the fact of who she was,



but it barely mattered to him. He only desired to appreciate her benevolent act.

“She is like my mother. She has helped me, and I’m extremely grateful to her. Her song was the only thing that propelled me to complete my Sadhana. Without her and her song, I would be left with only regret throughout my life. The guilt would have eliminated any delight from me for the rest of my life”, sputtered Swami Rama, in the hopes of meeting her.

She heard his words from behind the door, flung it open and presented her naturally seductive looks.

She looked highly ravishing, able to trap any man in her trap, but the only words that ran out of Swami Rama’s mouth were, “Really you are like a mother to me.”

He elaborated everything in detail and they had a chat for a while.

“I’ve heard of your master quite a few times”, she said in a soft voice. “From this day I promise to live just as your mother. Not just your mother, but a mother to many others; a mother to the world!”

They ended the conversation and parted ways.

## Scene 5: Ganges, Varanasi

The next day's sun heralded the rise of new life for the girl. She had promised Swami Rama to lead the life befitting his mother, and that was what she did. Her change was drastic and dramatic.

She left for Varanasi the very next day, where she lived on a boat on the Ganges.

In the evenings she would go ashore and chant on the sand, accompanied by thousands of people. She never looked at anyone's face and never talked to anyone. If someone wanted to chat with her, she only said one thing flatly, "Sit down with me and chant God's name!" "How are you? Do you need anything? Can I help you with something?" All such questions received a single answer from her mouth - "Rama". She wrote with utter clarity on her houseboat.

*Do not dare misunderstand me as a Sadhu*

*I was a PROSTITUTE*

*Do not ever touch my impure feet.*

One day, in front of five to six thousand people she made an announcement. She said, 'I'm leaving early in the morning. Please let this body sink into the water where it can be used by the fishes. Later she observed silence.

The very next day, she cast off her bodily existence.



A teacher to guide us from time to time, and nourish our souls to the very end of our lives, would be the most majestic gift one could ask for. Unfortunately, this might only remain a dream. One is bound to learn to stand on his own feet.

*Everyone on earth is a teacher  
If you can be a student*

Expecting a permanent teacher is akin to depending on a crutch to stand. Whereas making everyone and anyone a teacher is to stand on your very own two feet.

That will only become reality when we bring forth the student hidden deep within ourselves.

*When the student is ready.  
The teacher arrives*

- Robin Sharma

Today, we do not live in isolation. There are hundreds of people flocking around us every day, being involved in numerous good and bad incidents. Thousands of useless statements are being uttered by the valuable voices of these hundreds of people around us.

Our minds witness a great multitude of thoughts every day. Each of them definitely do not carry much significance. They are just present in our minds for a fraction of a second and vanish in the very next one.

All these incidents, words and thoughts are possessed with the ability to bring an profound change in one's life. They really are carrying the essence of life, the essence of this miserably agonizing life.

All we need to do is discard our egoistic and lazy personality, and bring on the inner, attentive, and eternal student. Once we succeed in doing so, we are bound to come across drastic alterations in our life. Those desired drastic changes will then leave behind only cheerful raptures in our lives.

It's high time to awaken the 'Student' within, and learn from all, even the unexpected teachers.



“Past” – a time that’s bound to be dark. Talk about any person, even a highly spiritual soul, and his past, extending to his past lives, has surely been pitch dark. The demon within had driven even him crazy. Even he had put up such ridiculous acts, which if shown to him, would put him to shame.

BUT when enlightenment approaches such people, they too transform their personalities from wild to mild.

Profound saints like Valmiki and St. Paul had a dirty past. We are aware of Dhradaprahari, Chilatiputra and other such violent and ignoble personalities, who came across an incident or word and shed their past, keeping no signs of it at all.

Harlots and promiscuous women like Kamalata, the queen in the story of Nupurpandita, and many more, led an unpardonable, filthy past, but still brought that change within themselves after enlightenment, dissolving their previous, indecent images completely.

*Every saint has his past  
And every sinner his future*

Today's saints like us, too, hail from such a culture that had made us a vulture. Everyone's life has been bitterly pathetic. From violence to vulgarity. No limits, therefore no point using words for it at all.

BUT... That was the past. The past has never dragged itself to our present. It itself says that it is no longer in existence. It is all over. People like us fail to digest such facts and turn up condemning ourselves and others; keeping the pasts in our mind, and slowing down the pace of our progress.

*We can be much more than  
A prisoner of our and others' past*

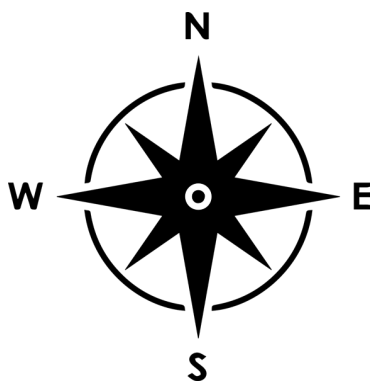
*If on one's past was black,  
Look at his present  
And if his present too sounds dull,  
Stare into his future  
It is doubtlessly sterling*

Change your sight, which forces you to recall everyone's past. Instead, install a sight that makes you see God in yourself and in every living creature. There is no demon abiding in any soul, it's only the holy God living within. It's our immature mindset that impedes our progressive outlook and shows only the demon in all. Cast that mindset off.

Let this one bit get drilled into the vacant depths of our minds - that however sinful a person might be, he can bring that drastic change at any forthcoming moment. Therefore, merely enjoy God in all. The demon's got to depart someday.

*Do not stick yourself to what one was  
Stick yourself to what one truly is and will be*





# Impossible

When broken down, this gloom-producing word itself states- I'M POSSIBLE. Yes, I am aware of the fact that the world has met this word-play a number of times, but here the intent isn't conventional.

Right now, the motive is not to intensify the reader's self-confidence by saying that there exists nothing that one cannot do, but to broaden one's mind so that the upcoming occurrences can find a place to rest.

We are inclined towards disbelieving the existence of theories or incidents that, according to us, seem baseless. Yes! For sure, in our view, they



might be rubbish, but what degree of accuracy does our mind contain when put into comparison with these unquestionable facts?

We may have not witnessed those happenings, but if we make that the reason for their unacceptance, then we should also not be hesitant to label ourselves “narrow-minded”.

“What’s seen is true.” If this is the only law ruling over our crude mentalities, then not just these occurrences, but a huge multitude of other long-known incidents, theories and beliefs will have to be thrown into the bin.

Let those easily accepted happenings stay within your mind, but let these forthcoming ones too occupy our heads and widen our acceptance.

These can be called nothing more than coincidences. There surely might be many factors playing a handy role in their occurrence but, having no awareness of them, we can only coin them as “coincidence”.

It’s time to design a broad mind and begin the rollercoaster which will leave us upside down in shock and disbelief. It is up to you-

*Design or Resign*

*Here "No Chance"*  
*Stands Just No Chance*

### 1) Tragic Connection

Neville Ebbin was a resident of Hamilton, Bermuda. He was just 17-years old when this following incident left him only in tales. In July, 1974, Neville was riding his moped in Hamilton when he was accidentally hit by a taxi. That accident brought an end to his life.

Almost exactly a year later his younger brother Erskine, also 17 at that time, was killed while riding the same moped on the same road, by the same taxi driven by the same man and while carrying the same passenger.

What a jaw-dropping event but nothing more than a coincidence

- The same person's brother
- The same age, 17
- The same moped
- The same place
- The same taxi
- The same driver
- The same passenger

- **The almost same date**
- **The same result; death**

## **2) The Doppelganger**

Billy Wright from Bournemouth, England came across an incredible coincidence while online on Facebook. He discovered a transatlantic doppelganger. A doppelganger is a double of a living person, sharing the exact physical characteristics, without sharing a genetic relationship.

The person on the other side from Athens, Pennsylvania owned the very same ginger hair, beard and mustache. The nose and eyes too were almost identical.

Things don't end here. Their jobs too were similar. Billy Wright was a construction worker and the person on the other side was a metal worker.

These striking similarities left Billy Wright simply spell-bound, but the final fact that left Billy stunned and incapable of coming to terms with the fact's credibility enters now. The person from the U.S. on the other side was none other than Billy Wright. Yes!!! Both the people shared the exact same name - "Billy Wright" - too.

### **3) Absent Since Years**

There once was a water company in Cadiz, Spain, where Joaquin Garcia worked as a supervisor. For some reason, he couldn't show up for work for a stretch of six years.

That is in no way astonishing. But the staggering fact is this - during his long absence of six years, none of his colleagues even realized his absence.

This sounds exceptionally weird, that a person working with you cannot be recognized as absent for six years.

Realization, at last, dawned upon them when an award ceremony was held. The managers got to know that he was missing when he was to be presented with a long-service award. Until then, his absence never crossed their minds.

### **4) A Bolt of Lightning**

A soccer match was being played in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which a fierce bolt of lightning struck the players on the ground.

The bolt killed 11 players instantly, but that was not the most shocking part. Another much greater shock was yet to be uncovered.

Out of the 22 on-field players, 11 were dead; and all those 11 players belonged to the opposing team. It is just unbelievable that there were 22 players and 11 were killed but all of them belonged to the same team.

Just unfathomable!! The opposing team completely died and not a single player died from the home team. Not suspicious but just an indigestible occurrence.

## **5) Apt Name**

In Charles City, Iowa, a freight train car got derailed and caused damage worth \$10,000 to a trackside bar.

Co-incidentally the name of that bar was 'Derailed'.

## **6) In the Genes**

16 April, 2016 - an unforgettable day for young Andre Dozell. He played for the English football team Ipswich Town and this day was his debut. He was only 16 years old.

On his debut, he came on as a substitute and

scored a goal for his team. The precisely same occurrence took place 32 years ago. Andre's father, Jason, was also 16 years old when he came in as a substitute on his debut for Ipswich Town and scored a goal.

- **His own father**
- **Age 16**
- **Debut match**
- **Coming as a substitute**
- **Same team - Ipswich Town**
- **Scoring a goal**

All of this occurred with his father and all of this also occurred with him too.

Very truly said that "History repeats itself". You cannot find a better example to illustrate this slogan.

Some peculiar connection between father and son, or merely a coincidence? God knows... but seems to be just a coincidence.

## **7) Fluke Shot**

Off-duty sheriff's deputy Jose Marquez produced a one-in-a-billion shot when he fired at one of his suspects.

Jose was visiting his girlfriend's apartment in Aurora, Colorado. He reached the parking lot when 2 suspects approached him with their guns drawn. Here Jose fired a miraculous shot. He fired a bullet that went straight into the suspect's gun's barrel and disabled the gun completely.

It is just not possible to contemplate the odds of such a happening, because the factors essential in producing such an event are not just innumerable, but require absolute precision and perfect timing.

The positions of both the guns, the height of both the people, their positions at the time of the bullet being fired, the precise angle of the gun's opening at the time of the shot, the full projection of the opening of the other gun and many more such necessary aspects to align can surely not be less than a miracle.

Forget the absence of these factors, but even the slightest alteration in the degree of any of these aspects could have deflected the bullet very easily, thereby keeping this occurrence only in one's wildest dream.

Doubtlessly a shot in a billion-billion. What on earth could make a bullet travel straight into another gun's barrel? Simply incomprehensible.

## 8) Re-Union

A woman named Holly Hoyle O'Brian worked at a hospital named Doctor's Hospital in Sarasota, Florida, as a nurse's aide.

She was an orphan who was separated from the rest of her family in South Korea, and was brought as a nurse's aide to Florida by the will of destiny.

While working at this hospital, she came in touch with another woman named Meagan Hughes, who worked in the same department, the same shift and the same floor.

They gradually made an intimate friendship between themselves, which led to the sharing of their family history. Holly came to know that Meagan too hailed from South Korea, and they even shared the same Korean last name. Further inspection planted a thought into their minds that they could be sisters!! Biological sisters. Their suspicion was cleared with the help of a D.N.A test. Yes! They were biological sisters. They were united after a very long span of 40 years.

In South Korea, these sisters were orphaned and separated from their family as well as each other. It's just amazing that 40 years after this



separation, they co-incidentally met each other this way.

Out of the whole world, destiny brought both of them to the United States. Out of the many states in the U.S., they landed in Florida. From the many cities of Florida, both thought of Sarasota. In that too, both got jobs in the very same hospital named, Doctor's Hospital. To add to it, both of them were appointed as nurse's aides in the same department, same floor and same shift too.

This is just insane. What a way to meet after 40 long years and still neither of them had any clue until the D.N.A test, that the one with whom the other was talking was her own long-separated sister.

## **9) Out of the Box**

Asif Ali, while playing cricket in West Yorkshire, England, in June 2021, played a fascinating stroke, but the fascination here had all to do with the upcoming coincidence.

He hit the ball straight out of the ground. It landed in the parking lot, exactly where his very own car was parked and broke its windshield.

Those who are familiar with cricket can evaluate how rare this event is. Sixes don't occur every ball. Sixes that travel straight out of the

stadium are hardly a few in hundreds of matches. After going out of the stadium, landing in the parking lot gets even rarer and out of the many parked cars, the ball hits the hitter's car only. What a terrific piece of coincidence.

## **10) Nothing Goes Forever**

In 1968, Paul Grisham of San Diego, California was working as a meteorologist with the U.S. Navy at McMurdo Station in Antarctica. While he was working there, he lost his wallet. He tried hard to find his wallet, but in spite of many attempts, he failed to do so.

Years began to pass by. After the passage of 53 years, the wallet was returned back to him after being found during the demolition of a building at the station. Can you imagine a lost wallet being returned to you after 53 years? This proves the possibility of anything.

## **11) A Mystery**

American musician Jim Sullivan recorded an album, U.F.O, in 1969. It featured lyrics about leaving his family and being abducted by aliens in the desert. Six years later, he vanished without a trace

in the New Mexico desert, leaving behind his abandoned car containing his money, clothes and guitar. After that he was found nowhere. “Where did he vanish?” “Who had a role to play in all of this?” and “How were such accurate predictions made?” is just an unsolved mystery. It seems to be just a coincident prediction.



*“Impossible”*

*At First Glance*

*“Possible”*

*When You Give Facts A Chance*

Whether we believe such occurrences or not, the fact clearly says that all of these have happened. God knows the reasons behind the occurrence of such striking coincidences, but his words convincingly declare the fact that nothing on earth is impossible.

## नत्थि भविअव्वयाए अगोयरो

- There is nothing that destiny cannot make happen in the real world.

The many crucial concepts of our Lord, which makes the core of his teachings, have been unchangeably instilled within our hearts. But such indisputable teachings, which form the crust of his beliefs, are blocked by our 'narrow-minded' brains, preventing them from penetrating our hearts.

*HE IS WORTHY OF TRUST  
FROM THE CORE TO THE CRUST*

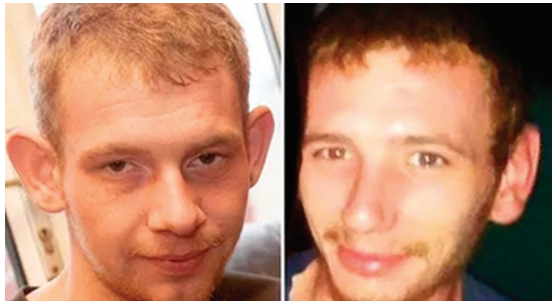


# IMPOSSIBLE

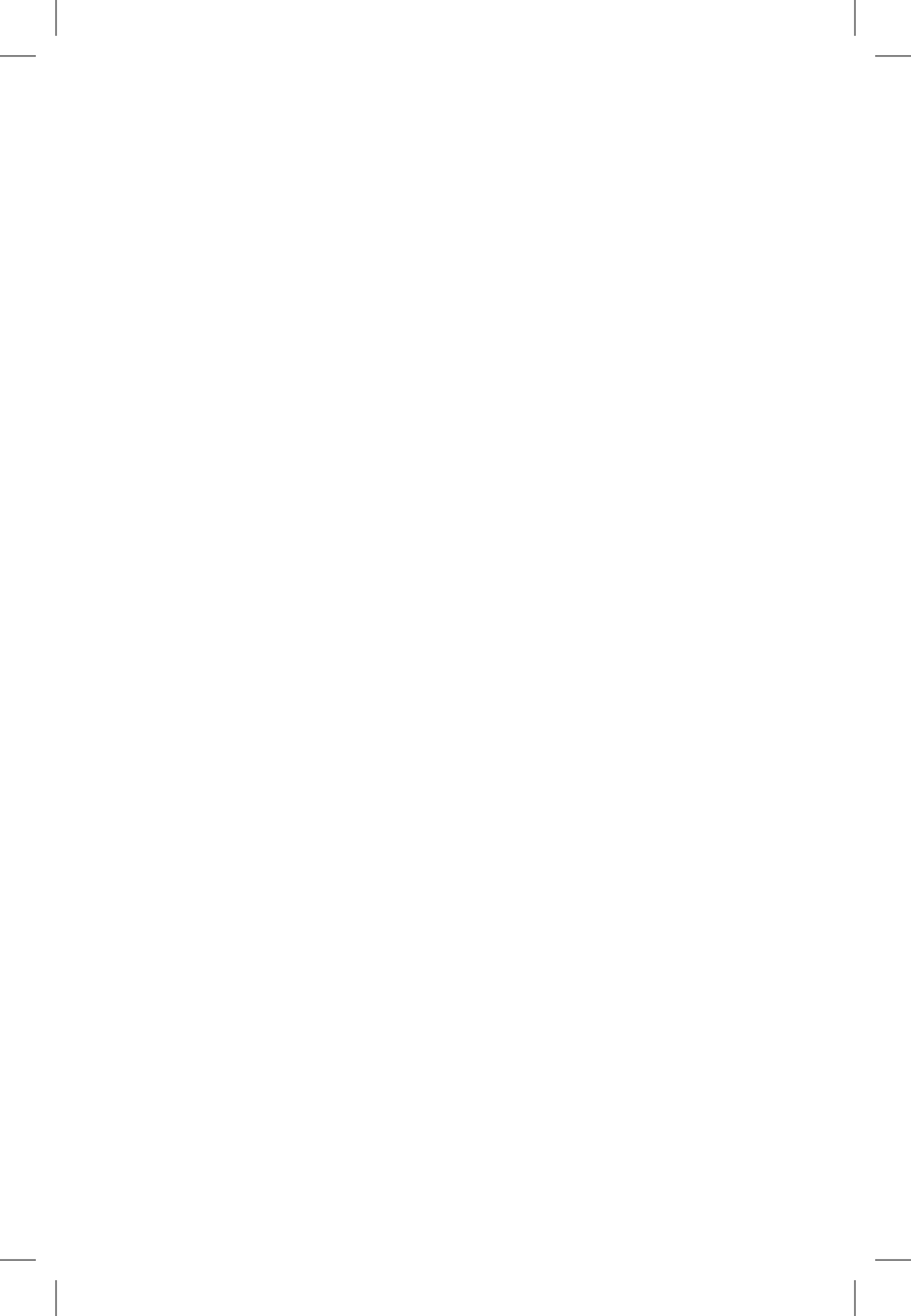


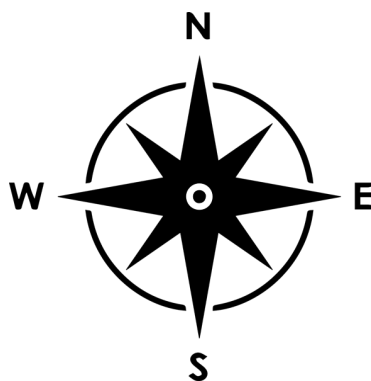
## Tragic Connection

## The Doppelganger



## In the Genes





# Tectonics

The word “religion”, whether written or spoken, gives the reader or listener a concrete impression that the following is greatly related to spirituality, or is relevant to the soul.

Though this definition is somewhat rigid, it would not be wrong in general situations. At some unique events, however, it might stumble and fall. Because religion, too, can be scientific; it is not only attached to spiritualism.

Long ago, Jain texts did contain highly elaborate and explicit scientific matters. Today, they lack them. The credit for the lack of such profound

scientific concepts in Jain scriptures may go to a few staunch Islamic rulers, who burnt and stole numerous scriptures, and to our lack of awareness.

Let the bygone past be kept aside. But even in the present, many dreams, like that of a telephone or a camera, have not remained dreams, but have been materialized. A prominent factor in their invention can possibly be the accurate scientific laws still present even in the surviving Jain scriptures.

Now, coming down to the essentials. It's time to unfurl what the lord foretold as the cause of a natural calamity, which scientists, after years and loads of research, have almost identically concluded.

Earthquakes are natural phenomena which causes catastrophic disasters. Before we head forward to glance into the Jain texts pertaining to earthquakes, we will dive into the depths of the research put forth by the equally meticulous theories of scientists.

## **Tectonic Plates**

The surface which we live on seems to be fixed, without the possibility of any kind of movements, but isn't truly so. In reality, it is composed of many huge slabs called tectonic plates. These tec-



tonic plates are made of the Earth's crust combined with the top layer of the mantle. It is quite like a jigsaw puzzle.

The current land is made up of seven or eight such large plates and dozens of other smaller plates. In all, there are about 38 tectonic plates spread throughout the surface of the earth, the largest of which is the Pacific plate. It is the only major plate that contains no land mass. These plates undergo slow but constant movement.

## **Movements in the Tectonic Plates and Earthquakes**

Scientists aren't precisely aware of how these tectonic plates move, but assume them to shift around on top of currents in the mantle layer underneath. Presumably, these currents of molten rock move in steady loops, rising when an area is heated by processes at the center of the earth and then sinking down again when they are cooled near the surface. The movement of these magma currents cause the plates to shift around. The edges of these tectonic plates interact in different ways. The plates move apart, towards each other, or brush past each other. These movements are called convergent, divergent and transform, respectively. The occur-

rence of any of these movements can result in an earthquake.

## Earthquakes

Earthquakes occur when vibrations are caused by the movements of tectonic plates along a fault line, a fracture existing in the earth's crust. As tectonic plates undergo movement these fault zones are created. At times, tension builds up along a fault and further movements can cause the release of energy in the form of seismic waves or vibrations that take place on the earth's crust. These vibrations ripple violently through the crust, causing an earthquake.

In conclusion, there are two prominent processes that cause earthquakes:

1. The current that flows from the mantle to the crust causing tectonic plates to abruptly shift.
2. The movements of the tectonic plates, causing a release of energy in the form of seismic shockwaves.

We have gone through all the minute factors, from a scientific perspective, that play a role in earthquakes.

These conclusions have been made by thorough research and that research has been

enhanced by the utilization of modern technology.

We now move forward to unseal these conclusions from certain texts of Jain scriptures. As mentioned before, we might not find detailed explanations or lengthy descriptions on earthquakes, but whatever little facts living in the texts are proving themselves to be exquisitely accurate.

So here we go....

तिहिं ठाणेहिं देसे पुढवीते चलेज्जा, तंजहा अधे णमिमीसे  
रयणप्पभाते पुढवीते उराला पोग्गला णिवतेज्जा, तते णं ते उराला  
पोग्गला णिवतमाणा देसं पुढवीते चलेज्जा ॥१॥ महोरते वा महिङ्गि  
जाव महेसकरखे इमीसे रतणप्पभाते पुढवीते अहे उम्मज्जणिम  
ज्जियं करेमाणे देसं पुढवीते चलेज्जा ॥२॥ णाग-सुवन्नाण वा  
संगामंसि वट्टमाणंसि देसं पुढवीते चलेज्जा ॥३॥ इच्चेतेहिं तिहिं  
ठाणेहिं देसं पुढवीते चलेज्जा ॥

- देश इति भागः, पृथिव्याः रत्नप्रभाभिधानाया इति,  
अहे त्ति अधः, आरोल त्ति उदारा बादरा निपतेयुः विस्त्रसापरिणा-  
मात् ततो विचटेयुरन्यतो वाऽऽगत्य तत्र लगेयुर्यन्त्रमुक्त-  
महोपलवत्, तए णं ति ततस्ते निपतन्तो देशं पृथिव्याश्चलयेयुरिति  
पृथिवीदेशश्चलेदिति ।

- Sthaanaanga  
Adhyana ॥ Uddesh-4  
Sutra 200 and Commentary

- Here 3 reasons have been mentioned for causing the land to move (earthquake) partially. The second and third reasons are caused by celestial beings but the first reason does quite fit the scientific conclusion we just saw.

The text says that, by the course of only nature, nothing apart from that, there are movements in the land. Chunks of land either crash together or break themselves free from one another and this movement of huge chunks causes the land to shake or tremble.

If you once again go through the scientific standpoint and make a comparative study you will immediately realize that of the three types of movements listed, two have been mentioned directly in these texts. The third type - plates sliding past each other (transform) - though not mentioned directly, can be quite simply inferred. We know that these texts don't possess much explanations, as a result of which, very obvious, unwritten concepts too have to be deduced.

There is another text from the exact same place as mentioned before.

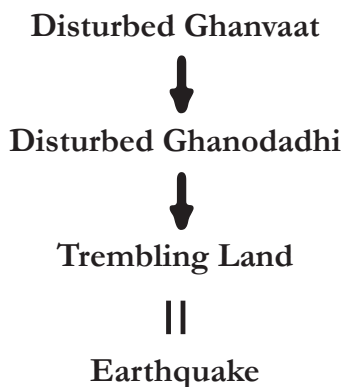
तिहिं ठाणेहिं केवलकप्पा पुढवी चलेज्जा, तंजहा अधे णं  
 इमीसे रयणप्पभाते पुढवीते घणवाते गुप्पेज्जा, तते णं से घणवाते  
 गुविते समाणे घणोदधिमेएज्जा, तते णं से घणोदधी एइए समाणे  
 केवलकप्पं पुढविं चालेज्जा ॥ १ ॥ देवे वा महिद्धिते जाव महेसक्खे  
 तहारुवस्स समणस्स माहणस्स वा इद्धिं जुत्तिं जसं बलं वीरियं  
 पुरिसक्कारपरक्कमं उव-दंसेमाणे केवलकप्पं पुढविं चालेज्जा ॥ २ ॥  
 देवासुरसंगामंसि वा वट्टमाणंसि केवलकप्पा पुढवि चलेज्जा ॥ ३ ॥  
 इच्चेतेहिं ठाणेहिं केवलकप्पा पुढवि चलेज्जा ॥

- केवलैव केवलकल्पा, ईषदुनता चेह न विवक्ष्यते,  
 अतः परिपूर्णत्यर्थः परिपूर्णप्राया वेति, पृथिवी भूः, अहे त्ति अधो  
 घनवातः तथाविधपरिणामो वातविशेषो गुण्येत् व्याकुलो भवेत्,  
 क्षुभ्येदित्यर्थः, ततः स गुप्तः सन् घनोदधिं तथाविधपरिणाम  
 जल-समूहलक्षणम् एजयेत् कम्पयेत्, तए णं ति ततोऽनन्तरं स  
 घनोदधिः एजितः कम्पितः सन् केवलकल्पां पृथिवीं चलयेद, सा  
 च चलेदिति ।

Here the talk is about a great portion of land,  
 or rather almost the whole land, trembling. Here  
 too, only the first reason can be called a scientific  
 cause and be compared with scientific research.

Deep beneath the superficial surface, lies a  
 layer of air much denser than the usual air, called  
 Ghanvaat. Just above this layer of dense air, is a  
 layer of dense water called Ghanodadhi. Atop this  
 layer of water is land, which we call Ratnaprabha  
 Prithvi.

When there is turbulence in Ghanvaat, it causes disturbance within the Ghanodadhi. The vigorous perturbation in the Ghanodadhi consequently creates pressure, and hence makes the land tremble to a great extent. Again, this tremble or vigorous shaking of land is what we call an earthquake.



Once again, you will need to take a look above. Doing so, you will see that another prominent reason behind earthquakes is the current that is responsible for the shifting and trembling of the tectonic plates. Scientists have presumed the currents to cause the plates to tremble, but aren't absolutely confident about the fact.

On the other hand, years and years ago, God was aware of this fact without even a single bit of

research. He just worked on his soul and, as a result, was gifted with Kevalgyan; with the help of which, not a single fact was left unknown.

It is therefore impossible to know or prove everything just by relying on research. We are provided knowledge only by our 5 senses and they are filled with limitations. Yes!!! We also use our sharp minds behind all our research, but mind you, the mind which we use is still not flawless.

In this case though, scientists have landed their conclusions accurately, but that is not guaranteed to always happen. Somewhere or the other, what they perceive through mechanical instruments will surely deceive them. Every single concept cannot be fit into our brains only with the aid of logic and senses. There is a world full of concepts only felt after the realm of logic and senses ceases. That magical realm, for the time being, can be nothing more than scriptures, where you can unlock a wide range of ideas that reside way beyond the senses.

*Beyond The Mountains of Logic  
Flows The River of Magic...*

### **1) Valdivia, Chile, 22 May 1960 (magnitude 9.5)**

This earthquake killed 1655 people, injured 3000 and displaced two million. It caused USD \$550 million worth of damages in Chile, while the tsunami that it spawned caused deaths and damage as far away as Hawaii, Japan and the Philippines. The 'rupture zone' of the quake was more than 1000 km long. Two days after the initial quake, the nearby volcano, Puyehue, erupted, sending ash and steam up to 6 km into the atmosphere over a period of several weeks.

### **2) Prince William Sound, Alaska, 28 March 1964 (mag. 9.2)**

Compared to the Chilean earthquake, this earthquake was less damaging: the resulting tsunami took 128 lives and caused overall USD \$311 million in damages. The earthquake was felt mainly in Alaska as well as some places in Canada, while the tsunami created by it caused damage as far away as Hawaii. The most damage was sustained by the city of Anchorage, 120 km north-west of the epicenter. Shaking from the quake itself is reported to have



lasted for three minutes.

### **3) Sumatra, Indonesia, 26 December 2004 (mag. 9.1)**

In terms of damage and loss of life, the scale of the disaster caused by the resulting Boxing Day Tsunami was enormous. In total, 227,900 people were killed or presumed dead, with around 1.7 million displaced over 14 countries in South Asia and East Africa. The epicenter was 250 km south-east of Banda Aceh, Indonesia, at a depth of 30 km. Two days later on 28 December, a mud volcano began erupting near Baratang, Andaman Islands, which is thought to have been associated with the earthquake.

### **4) Sendai, Japan, 11 March 2011 (mag. 9.0)**

The Sendai earthquake is also known as the Great East Japan Earthquake. It triggered a massive tsunami that devastated coastal areas of northeastern Japan, causing widespread destruction. Approximately 16,000 people were killed, with thousands more injured or missing. In addition to

the human toll, the disaster led to a nuclear crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, where reactor meltdowns released radioactive material, forcing evacuations and long-term environmental damage. The event remains a significant moment in Japan's history due to its profound human and environmental impacts.

### **5) Kamchatka, Russia, 4 November 1952 (mag. 9.0)**

This earthquake generated a tsunami that caused widespread damage in the Hawaiian Islands. Property damage was estimated at around USD \$1,000,000. Some reports describe waves over 9m high at Kaena Point, Oahu. A farmer on Oahu reported the loss of six cows to the tsunami, but no people were reported killed.

### **6) Bio-bio, Chile, 27 February 2010 (mag. 8.8)**

This earthquake and subsequent tsunami killed at least 521 people, with 56 missing and 12,000 injured. More than 800,000 people were displaced with a total of 1.8m people affected across Chile, where damage was estimated at USD

\$30 billion. The epicenter was 335 km south-west of Santiago, at a depth of 35 km. A minor tsunami traveled across the Pacific causing damage to boats as far away as San Diego, California.

### **7) Ecuador coast, 31 January 1906 (mag. 8.8)**

This earthquake caused a tsunami that is reported to have killed between 500 and 1,500 in Ecuador and Colombia. The tsunami traveled as far north as San Francisco, on the west coast of the US, and west to Hawaii and Japan. The tsunami took roughly 12 hours to cross the Pacific to Hilo, Hawaii.

### **8) Rat Islands, Alaska, 2 April 1965(mag. 8.7)**

The worst of the damage attributed to this earthquake was caused by a tsunami, reported to be about 10m high on Shemya Island. The wave caused flooding on Amchitka Island, causing USD \$10,000 in property damage. No deaths or injuries were reported.

### **9) Sumatra, Indonesia, 28 March 2005 (mag. 8.6)**

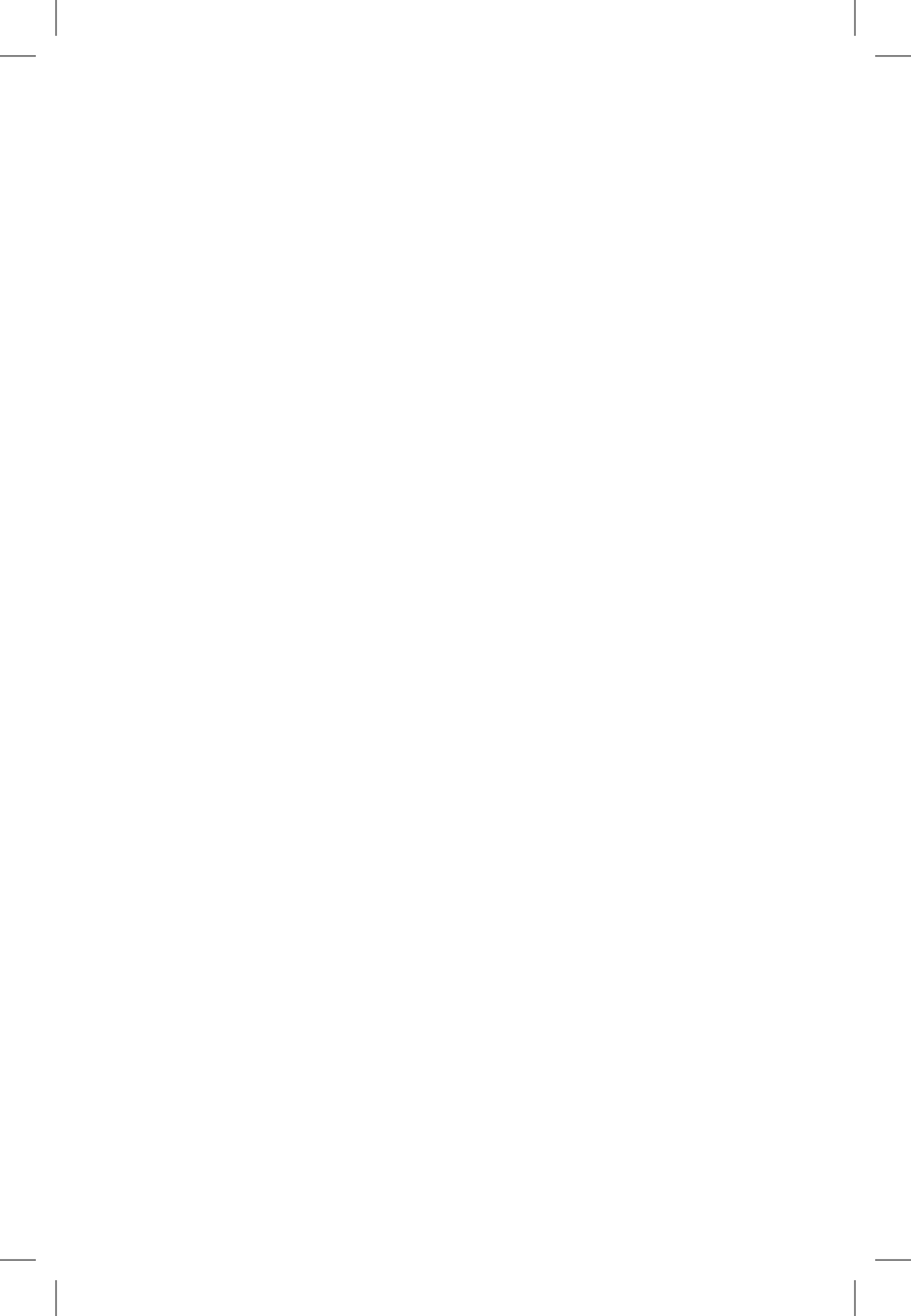
This earthquake killed 1313, with over 400 people injured by the tsunami as far away as Sri Lanka. The epicenter was 205 km north-west of Sibolga, Sumatra, at a depth of 30 km. This region, also the site of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, is particularly geologically active, with three of the 15 biggest known earthquakes having happened here.

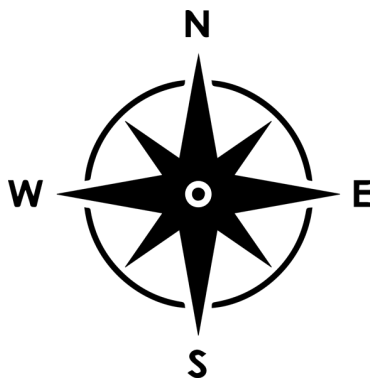
### **10) Assam, Tibet, 15 August 1950 (mag. 8.6)**

This inland earthquake caused widespread damages to buildings, as well as large landslides. 780 people were killed in eastern Tibet, with many villages and towns affected across Assam, China, Tibet and India. Oscillations to lake levels occurred as far away as Norway. The total death toll is likely to be higher, as no definitive total was ever estimated. While the earthquake itself is known as the Assam Earthquake, it is believed the epicenter may have been in Tibet.



UPLIFT





# The School of Hard Knocks

This is a constant source of frustration and depression. It's a major obstacle that haunts everyone, dashes hope, and destroys motivation. It turns joy into sadness, and makes even the strongest people feel helpless. It's a pervasive problem that affects every aspect of life.

This is FAILURE... But only if you have let failure take a hold of you.

भरओहरणाई जयम्मि कस्स न हुंति इअ कहंतित्व,  
लोआणं जत्थ फुडं ओहरिअजलाओ सरिआओ ।

-The rivers began to drop the water levels, as if demonstrating this concealed teaching to people – “Whose life doesn’t consist of ups and downs?”

- Hemchandracharya,  
Bhavabhaavana

Every single person, someday or the other, has gone through a patch in life where adversities, failure topping the list of them, have got the better of him.

Ambitions, which had clambered to the top of mountains, plunged down and made a brutal mess of themselves. Determination, confidence and self-belief proved themselves superficial. Brevity turned hollow. Failure outstripped all its opponents in one single strike. The desire to win had lost the war.

Such miserable times have been a part of every life, leaving behind an impactful mark. Those who considered those times a part of life and moved on, made their lives glamorous, while those who considered them as the entirety of their life, put an end to it.



It's up to the individual how he welcomes even such unwanted failures. Failures can be blessings or a curse, but the difference is not in them. It is the individual's outlook that urges him to visualize the failure as a blessing or a curse. They may seem to be curses but in fact, are blessings.

*Failures are blessings, in disguise  
For those who own true eyes*

James Russel Lowell once made a fascinating remark —

*Mishaps are like knives  
That either serves us or cuts us  
As we grasp them by the blade or the handle*

If we grasp the blade of failure, it will cut us and we truly fail, but if we grasp the handle of failure, we can cut our way through all sorts of other failures too. There is a Russian proverb also, that embellishes this concept of failure.

*The hammer shatters the glass  
But forges steel*

The hammer stays the same while hitting the glass or steel. The difference is between the glass and steel.

If we are glass, failures are bound to shatter us and our lives. But if we are steel, or if we can become steel, failures are left with no option than to forge us. Do not fear failure, because its approach is to forge us. We are steel - we do not fear the hammer, but demand it.

## **Failures Who Never Failed**

### **1) Isaac Newton**

Isaac Newton did a lot of amazing things. He made rules about how things move and why stuff falls down. He built a cool telescope and figured out how fast sound travels. He even created a type of math called calculus. Plus, he fixed England's money troubles when he worked at the Royal Mint. But when he was young, things were tough. His mom made him quit school to be a farmer, but he hated it. He liked reading more than farming and often forgot his chores. Finally, he got back to school and later went to Trinity College, but he wasn't the best student. It wasn't until he had time to study on

his own that people saw how smart he really was. By 1669, his teacher was calling him a genius, and by 1670, he got a big job teaching math at a fancy university.

## **2) Abraham Lincoln**

Abraham Lincoln tried his hand at various professions, including farming, soldiering, and even entrepreneurship, before entering politics. However, his early ventures were not particularly successful. Up until he was 21, he toiled on his family's farm. At the age of 23, he made his first attempt to enter politics by running for a seat in the Illinois General Assembly, but he didn't win, finishing eighth out of thirteen candidates. Following this setback, Lincoln ventured into business, partnering with a friend from his military service to purchase a small general store. Despite the local economy thriving, Lincoln's business didn't flourish, leading him to eventually sell his share. It wasn't until he tried his hand at politics again two years later that he found success. However, the breakthrough in his career only came when he changed paths and dedicated himself to self-studying law in order to qualify as a lawyer. This shift ultimately propelled him to-

wards the path of success that would culminate in his historic presidency.

### **3) The Wright Brothers**

The Wright Brothers didn't get much attention at first, but when they showed they could fly, people started paying attention. People knew that birds could fly, and there were even hot-air balloons back in 1783. But making something heavier than air fly was tough. The Wright brothers started by trying to make better gliders, but many of their early attempts failed. Still, they kept going. They got interested in flying in the late 1890s, and by 1903, they flew a powered aircraft for 12 seconds, covering 37 meters, which is about the speed of jogging. That was a big deal, but not many people noticed. Local newspapers didn't think it was important, and some even thought the pictures of their longer flights were fake. It wasn't until 1908, when they did public demonstrations, that people really started giving them credit.

### **4) Walt Disney**

Walt Disney's movies, including those made

by his studio after he passed away, are a big part of many people's childhoods. However, he faced many failures in his life. At one point, he was so broke that he supposedly had to eat dog food to survive. His first studio, the Laugh-O-Gram Studio, went bankrupt after just two years in 1923. His old boss said he lacked imagination and good ideas. In 1926, he made *Oswald the Rabbit*, which was successful, but he didn't own the character like he thought he did. When he asked for more money, his distributor said no and even cut his pay. He refused and lost most of his team. But losing Oswald turned out to be a good thing because it led him to create Mickey Mouse, who became way more famous.

## **5) JK Rowling**

Harry Potter, one of the top five best-selling books of all time, was written while she was close to poverty. At the time, when JK Rowling was writing what was to become the most popular children's fiction series of all time, she was also at the lowest ebb of her life. Unemployed, she has described herself at that time as being as "poor as it is possible to be in modern Britain, without being homeless". She was a divorced, single mother of a

young child who was dependent on her and who she was raising alone, and she was struggling with clinical depression. When she first submitted the manuscript of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* to publishing houses, no fewer than 12 of them rejected it. Even when Bloomsbury accepted the novel, Rowling was advised by her editor that she should get a day job, as she would not be able to earn enough from writing to support herself. You know the rest of the story. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* became one of the top five bestselling books of all time, selling over 450 million copies in 79 languages. It and its sequels made Rowling the first person in the world to become a US dollar billionaire by writing fiction.

## **6) Bill Gates**

The present success that Bill Gates did not come to him just like that. To reach this position, he had to travel long and thorny roads. Among such unimaginable achievements, many unsuccessful attempts came his way that eventually made him more patient, stronger, and confident to reach the peak. At the age of 17, Gates had demonstrated the entrepreneurial spirit, forming a company

with his childhood friend, Paul Allen called Traf-o-Data. Their goal was to build a device that could read traffic counters but on the day of the reveal, the device failed to work. Even though their first project didn't work out, it taught Gates an invaluable lesson that he would carry forward with him. In 1973, Gates enrolled in Harvard University after scoring a near-perfect SAT score of 1590 out of 1600. However, he dropped out of Harvard the following year to start Microsoft with partner Paul Allen. A decision that proved to be the right one. It's cool to see how his early experiences led to his success.

## **7) Henry Ford**

Henry Ford, born in Michigan in 1863, founded Ford Motor Company, one of the most profitable car companies globally. Despite his later successes, Ford faced many failures early on. At 28, he became an engineer, experimenting with gasoline engines. By age 35, he built a self-propelled vehicle, leading to the founding of Detroit Automobile Company in 1899. In 1901, however, that company failed after an inability to pay back a loan to the Dodge brothers and due to

inefficiencies in the design of the vehicle; the company ceased operations, dealing a heavy blow to Ford. Subsequently, Ford convinced one of his partners to give him another chance. With mounting pressure, it was agreed that he would try again. But after disagreements, this venture also flopped. After initial failures, Henry Ford faced setbacks but finally succeeded in 1903 at the age of 40 when he founded Ford Motor Company with the support of Malcolmson. Despite previous failures, Ford's determination paid off. He revolutionized the automotive industry by creating affordable cars for everyday families, making the Ford name synonymous with automobiles. His innovations, like the assembly line, transformed the industry and made cars accessible to many.

## **8) Mark Zuckerberg**

Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, has indeed achieved remarkable success with his platform that has become one of the most widely used sites globally. Despite his current fame and wealth, Zuckerberg faced challenges early on, notably with legal issues and controversies surrounding the inception of Facebook.



Shortly after starting up Facebook, which started as thefacebook.com, Zuckerberg was sued by Cameron Winklevoss, Tyler Winklevoss and Divya Narendra, resulting in an enormous level of frustration and stress. That case was later settled for 1.2 million Facebook shares. Before launching thefacebook.com, Zuckerberg created Facemash, a system that allowed students to pick the better-looking person from a set of photos, either male or female. However, students complained that the photos were being used without their consent, and it was later shut down by Harvard, forcing Zuckerberg to issue apologies and for the student paper to call the site “completely improper.” However, his determination and vision have propelled him to become one of the wealthiest individuals globally, surpassing even his own expectations of success.

## **9) Steve Jobs**

Steve Jobs, the late iconic billionaire, faced an enormous number of setbacks before achieving his legendary success with Apple Computers. Despite early challenges, including being put up for adoption by his mother and dropping out of college, Jobs co-founded Apple in 1976 with his

friend, Steve Wozniak. However, a decision to hire John Scully as CEO led to disagreements and Jobs' eventual resignation from Apple. Jobs resigned from Apple and quit, taking five employees with him to start his new business venture, NeXT. That disheartening period helped to embolden Jobs. While Apple was fledgling and would eventually be on the verge of bankruptcy, NeXT thrived. Ultimately, NeXT was acquired by Apple in 1997 bringing him back into the company. His journey from setbacks to success is a testament to his resilience and vision.

## **10) Albert Einstein**

Born in 1879, the man that we all know as one of the most brilliant minds to have ever lived, was once considered a major failure. In fact, Einstein didn't speak until he was four years old and couldn't read until seven years old. In 1895, at the age of 16, he failed to pass the examination for entrance into the Swiss Federal Polytechnic school located in Zurich and while he did graduate from university, he struggled and nearly dropped out, doing very poorly during the course of his studies there. In fact, he was in such dire straits that at the time of his father's death, he considered his

son to be a major failure, which left young Einstein completely heartbroken. After graduating, he wandered, unsure of what to do with his life. After some time, he ended up taking a job as an insurance salesman, going door to door in an attempt to sell insurance. Two years later, he took a job at the Patent Office as an assistant examiner, evaluating patent applications for a variety of devices. Of course, this is the same individual who brought us the theory of relativity with groundbreaking work done in physics and mathematics, won the Nobel Prize in 1921, and created the beginnings of quantum theory.

## **11) Jerry Seinfeld**

Jerry Seinfeld, the famous American comedian and actor born in 1954 in Brooklyn, New York faced a significant setback early in his career. After a failed stand-up performance at an open-mic night in New York City, where he forgot his jokes and was booed off stage, he had to make a crucial decision. Despite the initial failure, Seinfeld chose to return to the stage the next night, where he turned the situation around and had the audience laughing hysterically. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of his journey to becoming one of

the most successful comedians of all time. Seinfeld's resilience and determination in the face of failure are inspiring examples of how setbacks can be overcome on the path to success.

## **12) Sir James Dyson**

Absolutely, that feeling of not getting something on the first try can be really frustrating. Sir James Dyson's journey to creating his revolutionary bagless vacuum cleaner is a powerful example of perseverance and resilience. Despite facing 5,126 failed prototypes over 15 years, he did not give up. His determination and willingness to learn from each setback ultimately led to the creation of a highly successful product that transformed the industry. Dyson's story highlights the importance of persistence and embracing failure as part of the path to success.

## **13) Thomas Edison**

It's crazy to think that Thomas Edison, one of the most successful inventors in history, was once told by his teachers that he was 'too stupid to learn anything.' Despite facing such discouragement,

Edison didn't let that stop him. He encountered failure 2,774 times before successfully inventing groundbreaking creations like the phonograph and practical electric lamp. His story is a testament to the power of perseverance and resilience in the face of challenges. Edison's determination to keep trying and learning from his failures ultimately led to innovations that have had a lasting impact on the world.

#### **14) Theodor Seuss Geisel**

It's incredible to learn about Dr. Seuss's journey to becoming a beloved children's author. Despite facing rejection from 27 different publishers for his first book, he didn't give up. The fact that he was even considering burning his manuscript shows how close he was to giving up. It's amazing how a chance encounter with a former classmate changed the course of his career, leading to the publication of his books. Dr. Seuss's perseverance and resilience paid off, as his books have brought joy to millions of children worldwide. His story is a powerful reminder of the importance of not letting setbacks define your path to success.

## **15) Oprah Winfrey**

Oprah Winfrey's story is truly inspiring. Despite being fired from her first TV job as an anchor in Baltimore, she didn't let that setback define her. Her journey to becoming a billionaire with her own TV channel showcases her resilience and determination. Oprah's perspective on failure, as shared in her Harvard commencement speech in 2013, is profound. "There is no such thing as failure. Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction." Viewing failure as a redirection in life can be a powerful mindset to adopt. Creating her own TV channel not only secured her career but also allowed her to control her own destiny. Oprah's success serves as a reminder that setbacks can lead to new opportunities and growth.

## **16) Stephen King**

The story of Stephen King and his first book, *Carrie*, is another example of pay off in the face of rejection. It's hard to believe that such a successful novelist faced 30 rejections for his book! The fact that publishers weren't interested in negative utopias or science fiction at the time is

mind-boggling considering how popular his books have become. Dejected, King dumped the book in the trash. Thankfully, King's wife saw the potential in Carrie and encouraged him to resubmit it, leading to his first book deal. It just goes to show that sometimes, all it takes is one person to believe in you for your career to take off. Stephen King's journey is a testament to the power of belief in oneself and the importance of not giving up, even when faced with multiple rejections.

## **17) Mahendra Singh Dhoni**

It's fascinating to learn about Mahendra Singh Dhoni's journey from a lower-middle-class background to becoming one of the greatest cricketers in India. Dhoni hails from a lower-middle class family and his father Pan Singh was employed at the junior level at MECON. The fact that he didn't have a huge interest in cricket from childhood and started off playing badminton and football showcases how unexpected paths can lead to greatness. His transition to cricket as a wicket-keeper due to a coach's suggestion during a football game changed the course of his career. Working as a train ticket examiner from the years of 2000 to 2003 to support

his family while pursuing cricket highlights his dedication and hard work. Dhoni's rise from a TTE to the captain of the Indian cricket team, and leading the team to victory in all three ICC events is truly remarkable and inspiring. His story is a testament to the power of perseverance, hard work, and seizing opportunities when they arise.

### **18) Mary Kom**

Mary Kom's journey from a small village in Manipur to becoming a boxing legend is truly remarkable. Mary Kom grew up in a poor family and faced many obstacles early. She began training secretly, as her family and community did not support her dream of becoming a boxer. Despite facing numerous challenges and lack of resources and support initially, her determination and passion for boxing drove her to success. Training in secret and winning her first state-level championship in 2000 marked the beginning of her illustrious career. The obstacles she overcame, including balancing motherhood with boxing, showcase her resilience and unwavering commitment to her dreams. Mary Kom's comeback after the birth of her twins and winning the World Amateur Boxing Championship



in 2010 is a testament to her strength and perseverance. She has become an inspiration not only in the boxing world, but also to women across India, proving that with hard work and determination, any obstacle can be overcome. Mary Kom's story is a shining example of what can be achieved through sheer willpower and dedication.



There is no such field in life where setbacks do not claim a hold. From one angle, these setbacks are inevitable. They are there and we have to face them. It is all up to us to decide how capable we are to manipulate them. The driver's seat is ours only. When self-confidence is running wild within us and determination is thriving unperturbed, nothing on earth can stop those setbacks from setting back.

*Setbacks aren't set  
For us to show them our backs  
They are set for us to face them  
And deposit them flying back*

Failures are surely pestilent winds which can blow off anyone, but only until one remains unaware of himself. When we realize who we are and the peerlessly unruffled personality we possess, all the failures and setbacks turn timidly useless.

*Nothing stands beyond our limit  
Because nothing stands beyond our nature*

We aren't wrong when we believe failures to be pulverizing, pummeling and heartbreaking. But we showcase a thorough lack of optimism by not letting the true laws of the universe penetrate into our minds.

*Life can be made better  
Even by the things that break your heart*

*Circumstances that seem sorry  
Too can bring glimmering glory*

*Wounds can be  
Turned into wisdom*

Intellectual minds don't ever consider failure as failure. It is one of the best teachers

living eternally on earth. It is accompanied by tons and tons of experience, and therefore, though the fear of failure is the only thing standing between most people and their dreams, it is highly essential for success in any endeavor.

Here fits a remarkable remark-

*Every arrow that hits the bull's-eye  
Is the result of 100 misses*

**Success ← Good judgment ←  
Experience ← FAILURE**

The source of unrivaled success lies at the feet of failure. So, failure and setbacks play a matchless role in every life and therefore hold immense significance.

All we need to do in such failures, is LEARN.... Learn what went wrong, learn what we are lacking, learn a different strategy, learn the lessons of life and learn YOURSELF....

*The only way to improve our tomorrow  
Is to realize what went wrong today*

True success is to step back from being

controlled by dejection and to learn from setbacks when they knock at the door. This is failure's failure, when it fails to obstruct us from racing towards success, even in its presence,

This is what you call failure- "The School of Hard Knocks"

Let time take its own time, but we are not going to shift our mindset, we are not going to alter our eternal personality even in the wildest of encounters of life.

*"I promise by my sacred truth  
Oh! Master mine when I sail forth.  
In calm or stormy life of mine  
Shall prove a noble child of thine."*

-Last stanza from the school  
song of Activity High School.

*The fuel is all WITHIN  
It merely demands a SPARK  
And then THE GAME IS ALL OVER*



## **Words, not for sympathy, but for another restart**

**“It is impossible to live without failing at something unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all, in which case you have failed by default.”**

- J.K. Rowling

**“Our greatest glory is not in never failing. But in rising every time we fall.”**

- Confucius

**“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”**

- Thomas Edison

**“Those who dare to fail miserably can achieve greatly.”**

- John F Kennedy

**“There are no failures-just experiences and your reactions to them.”**

- Tom Krause

**“Don’t fear failure, not failure, but low aim is the crime. In great attempts, it is glorious even to fail.”**

- Bruce Lee

**“The one who falls and gets up is stronger than the one who never tried. Do not fear failure but rather fear not trying.”**

- Roy T. Bennett

**“One who fears failure limits his activities.”**

- Henry Ford

**“Giving up is the only sure way to fail.”**

- Gena Showalter

**“The difference between average people and achieving people is their perception of and response to failure.”**

- John C. Maxwell

**“The master has failed more times than the beginner has tried.”**

- Stephen McCranie

**“Fear kills more dreams than failure ever will.”**

- Suzy Kassem

**“Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end.”**

- Denis Waitley

**“Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success.”**

- Dale Carnegie

**“Do not judge me by my successes: judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.”**

- Nelson Mandela

**“My grandmother once told me, ‘Don’t let failure go to your heart and don’t let success go to your head.’”**

- Will Smith

**“Failure is success in progress.”**

-Albert Einstein

**“It is the true nature of mankind to learn from mistakes. Not an example.”**

- Fred Hoyle

**“A man must be big enough to admit his mistakes, smart enough to profit from them, and strong enough to correct them.”**

- John C. Maxwell

**“Everything you want is on the other side of fear.”**

- Jack Canfield

**“The phoenix must burn to emerge.”**

- Janet Fitch

**“If you’re not prepared to be wrong. You’ll never come up with anything original.”**

- Ken Robinson

**“There is no failure except in no longer trying.”**

- Chris Bradford

**“Pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever.”**

- Lance Armstrong



**“Success is stumbling from failure to failure with no loss of enthusiasm.”**

- Winston Churchill

**“I’d rather be partly great than entirely useless.”**

- Neal Shusterman

**“The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing.”**

- Henry Ford

**“Winners are not afraid of losing. But losers are. Failure is part of the process of success. People who avoid failure also avoid success.”**

- Robert T. Kiyosaki

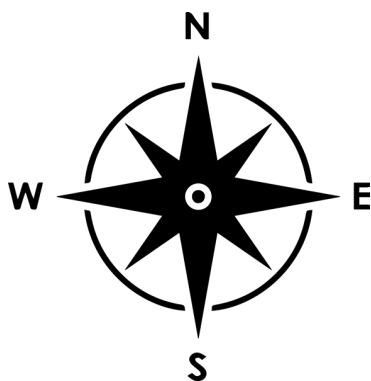
**“No human ever became interesting by not failing. The more you fail and recover and improve, the better you are as a person. Ever meet someone who’s always had everything work out for them with zero struggle? They usually have the depth of a puddle. Or they don’t exist.”**

- Chris Hardwick

**“What is the point of being alive if you don’t at least try to do something remarkable?”**

- John Green





# Your Way in Your Way

All destinations in life have different roads which lead you to them. It is not necessary for all destinations to have just a single road or way to reach them. To reach a particular place, one may use the land route, the air route or the sea route. Within these fundamental means of transport are many other subcategories of transport. For example, while traveling by land, one may use a car, a train, or any other vehicle. Similarly, while traveling via air or water, there are numerous options.

Just as the wide range of options in the mode of transport, routes equally have a set of options. There definitely might be one beaten track to reach a particular place, but that surely isn't the only way. There are tons of different ways to reach one single place.

*For Different Destination  
There Are Sets of Different Roads*

We do speak this statement quite often that “this road leads to this place”. It is true, but just in some sense. In reality, it is not the road leading, but the man himself who leads. He is the one who finds new roads. In certain situations, when the popular route is inaccessible, he is the one who finds his very own way of reaching his destination.

A very widely known example relevant to this topic is ants. When one puts his hand as a hurdle in an ant's path, the ant easily changes its course. If you repeat your action, you are bound to see the same result consistently. You would eventually get tired of doing this, but the tiny little ant doesn't. Forget hurdles, ants find their own way from under the ground. You'll notice ants running out of a tiny hole, but it is just not possible to know

where they came from. It is all happening intricately under the ground.

The surge of water too always finds its way, even after terrible obstructions. Plants too, after growing rapidly, break walls and find their way out. In spite of huge obstacles, they smoothly find their way out in their very unique way.

Now let's have a look at our lives. How do we live? Don't we merely trail the beaten track? Just keep on doing things in the worldwide fashion. We never try doing the same thing in a different way. This diverts the flow of innovation away from us.

Right now, there might not be any sort of issue. But when that general, beaten track gets locked or inaccessible somehow, we might get stuck, with no way out.

This demands us to think differently, to act differently, and most importantly to possess the rare quality hardly seen in others; versatility. In the course of your aim to attain success, it is essential to change your plan by dropping the regular methods and grabbing onto those extraordinary opportunities which successfully lead us to our goals with ease.

If the course goes smoothly, we may not change our way and just follow the treaded path; but when adversities act as hurdles in our path, we

should be smart enough to quickly realize and reassess, finding a new way for gaining the exact same goal.

The obstructed track indicates to us to choose a new way. Our destinations don't change. we just change our way in our very own way.

*Change Is A Prime Element Of Life  
Without Which People Perish*

*When unexpected events  
Are about to get the better of you  
It is time to hunt out  
Your Way in Your Way*

### **1) A Police Officer: Bamberg, Germany**

In the city of Bamberg, a moped ran a traffic stop on the road and sped up to escape the police car. The police car followed the moped immediately and soon was in range to get hold of the suspect. Suddenly, the moped entered into a narrow path through which it was impossible for the police car to give chase.

The police had to make a quick decision, or else the suspect would doubtlessly slip out of

their hands. It was then, when one of the officer's external vision noticed a child's 22-inch-high bike and that triggered his internal vision to conceive a terrific idea.

Without a fraction of a second delay, the officer jumped onto that child's incredibly small bike and restarted the chase by speeding into that narrow path. He drove the bike to his fullest potential, keeping a singular focus, and his prolific idea paid off. You might find it incredulous, but it is just plain fact that the officer caught the suspect with his unique, on-the-spot-evolving idea.

## **2) Luke Iseman and Heather Stewart: Containertopia, San Francisco**

Time was testing Luke Iseman, Heather Stewart and many other residents of San Francisco where the rent for a one-bedroom apartment was \$3,500 per month. Shocked by such absurd rent prices, Luke and Heather were trying to find a way out of this situation.

It was then, when they came up with the plan of setting up Containertopia. Containertopia is a small village in Oakland, California. The residents of this small village live in shipping containers measuring 160 sq. ft.

Though small, these metal containers are facilitated with all the major necessities. They serve as small apartments and can be modified to incorporate glass windows, electricity, and a private shower and toilet. The rent of one container is just a nominal \$600 per month, less than 20% of their \$3500.

They found a way of living in their very own way, which turned out to be useful not only for themselves, but for many lower-middle class people of San Francisco for whom \$3,500 was significantly costly.

### **3) Antonio Munoz: Mexico**

We all know from personal experience how vulnerable we became when traveling outdoors during the Coronavirus outbreak. Keeping the luxurious items aside, going out for even the regular necessities was not just dangerous but nearly impossible as well. Going out certainly meant giving an invitation to death by your very own hands.

In those isolating days, a man from Mexico named Antonio Munoz felt uncontrollably hungry and desperately wanted to eat something. Aware of the fact that it was next to impossible to roam out of the house, he began to contemplate a productive



idea and fatefully, an impeccable plan struck his mind.

He attached a note and some money to the collar of his pet Chihuahua, named Chokis, and sent him to a nearby shop to buy some Cheetos. The dog reached the shop and the note was read after being detached from the dog's collar. The shopkeeper understood it quickly and acted as per requested. Even in such tough times, Antonio brilliantly completed his aim by charting his very own way.

#### **4) Mrs. He: Luzhou, China**

Another example evolved from the coronavirus pandemic. During the initial COVID-19 outbreak, Mrs. He's father was struck with this virus. They lived in the city of Luzhou, China, where he was being medicated at his home.

Her father required regular medication for which she had to visit the hospital in Luzhou. One day, when she was going to hospital for the medicines, she realized that she had run out of protective face masks, without which one could not even dare to step out of their homes.

Searching for an alternative solution she came up with a weird, but successful, idea. She put on an inflatable giraffe costume and went to the

hospital, eliciting astonished expressions on the faces of those present.

She fulfilled her medical requirements and returned back home the very same way. The costume covered her entire body from head to toe, leaving just a small area of plastic film halfway down the giraffe's neck for her to see. What a peculiar way of finding out your way; but if it makes your way, then there stands no issue in that way.

### **5) A Bank Employee: Taiwan**

A Taiwanese bank employee wanted an extended paid leave from work, but it was obviously not that easy to qualify. He had to rack his brain until he came up with a flawless plan.

Under Taiwanese law, workers get eight days of leave when they marry. Keeping the law in mind, he had to plan out of an extended paid leave. His clever brain proved to be quite cooperative with his wild desires, and gave him a convincing plan.

He first married a girl, which was probably planned, and received eight days of leave from his bank. Now it was time for him to execute his plan. On the very last day of his given leave, he divorced his wife and then remarried her the very next day. By doing so, he officially secured another eight days

of paid leave. After the completion of the second set of eight days, he repeated the very same act and pocketed the third set of eight days. He again repeated the same thing and another set of eight days of leave stuck to his name.

What a mind, to have generated such an impeccable tactic of attaining such a long extended paid leave. In all, he married his wife four times and divorced her three times, thereby amassing a total of 32 days of extended paid leave.

One of course finds his way on his way, but this is just insane. What a mind-boggling way of finding his way out. What more to say, for such a spontaneously, intellectual act.

## **6) A Police Officer: Boston, Massachusetts**

In the city of Boston, there is a zoo named Franklin Park. One day, a male peacock named Snowback somehow managed to escape. The zoo officials quickly informed the police regarding the occurrence and requested them to act, and aid in the hunt. The police gladly accepted their request and soon, the search began.

Capitalizing on his aim, a witty officer produced a very easy idea to recapture the lost male peacock. He rapidly searched for a peacock mating

call in his phone and played it loudly. The peacock heard the mating call and exposed itself immediately. The bird was lured into a secured area until the zoo officials arrived.

## **7) Gabriel Horchier: Washington DC, USA**

One morning, while going to work on his motorcycle, Gabriel got inescapably stuck in heavy traffic. He was just not able to bypass it, in spite of constant efforts. It was then when a strategy struck his mind.

He thought of commuting to work on the Anacostia River instead of traveling on the freeway that runs parallel to the river. So, every other working day, the librarian from Maryland cycled from his home to the river, rowed his 21 feet long (6.4m) fiberglass racing shell 8 km downriver, and then hopped onto another bike to take him to the Library of Congress. The entire journey took him about 90 minutes.

He would then take the metro home and the next day he would reverse the routine by taking the metro to work and rowing back home. This 71-year-old man followed this routine regularly for a stretch of 15 years. A small incident brought a unique plan into his mind which he could follow for such an

extended period of time.

## **8) Titiporn Jutimanon: Bangkok, Thailand**

He was the owner of a newly opened, restaurant on the riverside of the Chao Phraya River. The restaurant did take off, but soon he was forced to face a serious problem.

The rising tide of the Chao Phraya River threatened to shut down his restaurant because the high tides would bring all the water crashing into his restaurant. He was understandably quite worried for his restaurant's future and was in the hunt for a plan when he stumbled upon an idea.

Instead of shutting down, he decided to turn the flooding into an experience. Thereafter, people came flocking to his Chao Phraya Antique Café to dine amid calf-deep floodwater. It turned out to be quite an appealing spot for folks to visit. To enhance the fun, the customers get an added splash whenever boats cruise by, sending water barreling into the dining area.

What Titiporn did in desperation proved to be a master stroke. His restaurant was on the verge of shutting down, and from such a hapless phase, he pushed it to such altitudes that it made him relish the zenith of his success.

## 9) Bapurao Tajne: Kalambeshwar Village, Maharashtra, India

Due to some reason, the wife of laborer Bapurao Tajne was refused access to the local well of their village, Kalambeshwar. Now, it was not just a torment for himself, but for his whole family. They were shut out from their only source of water. His determination and dedication gave him an idea.

He began digging a well single-handedly. Six hours of his day was utilized in digging the well. Eventually, after 40 tiring, laborious days, the well was completed. It was 4.6m deep, and was made solely by Bapurao Tajne, or you might say, his desperation. So what if his family was refused use of the local well; his unyielding determination could not deny him a path of regaining the access to water.



Circumstances heartlessly empty all the desired things from a person's life. The objects or people who are expected to be our aids on the exhausting and arduous path to our dreams abruptly walk out of our lives. Such incidents make us

doubt that there's a way out and that the goal is still achievable.

These are the situations which deprive us of all instruments that might lead us to our destination. It is all good until we lose our materialistic possessions. The problem begins when hope takes the exit door. There are a great number of chances for us to hunt out our way if our energetic grip on hope and determination stays strong.

There is no scenario where we cannot find a way out. There is a way buried deep beneath every impossible-seeming situation. The job is in our hands to keep the glorious flame of hope ignited within our hearts, which will lead us to hit our aim triumphantly.

The conclusion teaches us to hold onto hope. There is just no situation on Earth fit to be coined as hopeless. It is the demonic absence of hope which injects such a perspective within us.

*We Need To Be  
A Magnet To The Solution  
Not A Magnet To The Problem*

When things don't go the right way, we are inclined to glare at the problem and hence, fail to find a way out. Get rid of this poor tendency once

and for all, and then witness the transformations emerging and shaping your life. Your mindset will change drastically, and that in turn, will change your every word and every action.

*Life Is A Steep Slope  
Clutch Vigorously Onto Hope  
Because That Is The Only Scope*

*Let Hope Within You Stay  
Expose Yourself To The Heat Of May  
This Can Make You Find  
Your Way In Your Way*





A  
DIVE  
WITHIN



# Your Way In Your Way

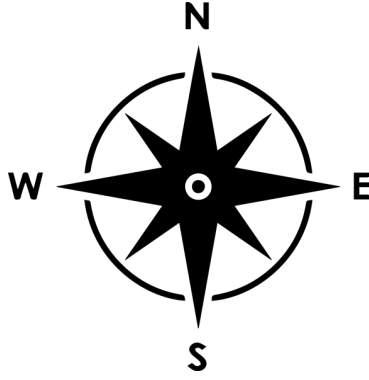


Titiporn Jutimanon:  
Bangkok, Thailand



Luke Iseman and Heather Stewart:  
Containertopia, San Francisco





# Maya And Mimicry

The realm where tranquility and ecstasy outstretch themselves, far beyond the bounds of their material presence, is the world that is manifested only after the blood-stained, cold, beheaded bodies of Kashaya lie dead within our everlasting souls, It's well explained in Yoga Sara –

“शुद्धस्फटिकसंकाशो निष्कलश्चात्मनात्मनि ।  
परमात्मेति स ज्ञातः प्रदत्ते परमं पदम् ॥१-३॥  
किन्तु न ज्ञायते तावद् यावद् मालिन्यमात्मनः ।

जाते साम्येन नैर्मल्ये स स्फुटः प्रतिभासते ॥१-४॥

तत्त्वनन्तानुबन्ध्यादिकषायविगमक्रमात् ।

आत्मनः शुद्धिकृत् साम्यं, शुद्धं शुद्धतरं भवेत् ॥१-५॥

**Kashaya removal → Samya Purity → The state of experiencing God. The realm of utmost tranquility and ecstasy.**

It is the most lethal, abstract presence on earth. Its outward appearance may not seem deadly in most cases, but that is Kashaya's skill - to hide its true form behind the veil. Millions of writings on Kashaya's brutality have successfully found their places in thousands of scriptures, but the true meaning and essence still, unfortunately, eludes our souls. Among all other Kashayas, Maya is in some way the most prominent of all. Though it doesn't look violent initially, in the long run, it can prove itself the prominent cause of damage.

A person realizes being a victim of the other Kashayas. But Maya, being a master illusionist, doesn't let realization dawn upon its victim's mind. When one doesn't even allow its victim to suspect its presence, the danger increases tenfold. Scriptures have a lot to say about maya.

**माई पमाई पुण एई गळ्ळं ।**

- The one who flows in the current of maya and pramad, has to repeatedly take birth again and again.

- Aachaaraanga

**“कौटिल्यपटवः पापाः मायया बकवृत्तयः ।  
भुवनं वंचयमाना वंचयन्ते स्वमेव हि ॥”**

- Filled with the tactics of a crane - artistic in deceit - sinful people, while cheating the world are, in reality, cheating themselves.

- Hemchandracharya,  
Yoga Shastra

We are quite aware how we gladly utilize Maya as a strategy in daily life. In business, in copying during examinations, in putting allegations on innocents, in showcasing ourselves as the best and in a number of other places, Maya is our weapon.

We have grown talented in this subject to such an extent that we can catch one doing maya with ease. It's not because that we are wise enough

to do so, but it is because we have got extremely accustomed to it that the smell of Maya in no way can cheat us.

Well, this is not our current subject. The ongoing topic is how widespread Maya's kingdom is. We humans are not the only ones targeted by Maya. The vast expanse of its empire encompasses the animal kingdom as well.

Treachery and mimicry in our world is only to the extent of earning money, convincing your loved ones, and pulling one's leg to spend some moments of laughter and add some enjoyment to the atmosphere.

In the animal kingdom, Maya is executed for protection and in many following cases, for destruction as well. Used for whatever purpose, Maya at the end is Maya.

### *Time to unravel Maya's Exhibition in the world of animals*

#### **1) Brown Thornbill**

It is a tiny Australian bird which uses mimicry for defense. When approached by would-be predators, it scares them off by its innate talent of mimicking sounds of other larger birds. It is also



capable of mimicking the sound of the pied currawong, which is about 40 times the size of the thornbill.

## **2) Sleeper Cichlid Fish**

Here, the executed maya is for destruction. These fish are found in East Africa. They pretend to be dead by lying on their sides at the bottom of lakes. This way, by faking death, they naturally invite other fish close to them. When a scavenging fish approaches, the “corpse” suddenly jumps to life, snatches the investigating fish and makes it its meal.

## **3) Sabre-Toothed Blenny**

This fish is also called the “False cleaner fish.” It is known for mimicking the behaviour of cleaner wrasses, which remove parasites and dead skin from larger fish. The blenny copies the wrasse’s shape, markings and movements to enable itself to get close to larger fish. The large fish, expecting it to be the cleaner fish, permits it to come close and then the blenny, instead of performing the expected cleaning procedure, it bites off a chunk of flesh and off it goes.

#### **4) Bushveld Lizard**

These Lizards belong to southern Africa. They are impeccable at mimicking the marking of oospister beetles. The oospister beetle is a fearsome insect that sprays formic acid at predators which at times causes blindness. This little black-and-white lizard has even learned to walk the same way as the beetle, which is a tactic used by it to keep predators at a safe distance.

#### **5) Katydid**

The katydids look like bright green tree leaves. These are little insects, but maya is in no way little in them. They use both attacking and defensive mimicry for their survival. They use their skills to imitate the female cicada's response to the male cicada mating call, luring unsuspecting male cicadas into becoming dinner. Their wise strategy is nothing but a clever production of maya.

#### **6) Spider – Tailed Horned Viper**

Their name itself gives a hint to the sharp minds. Their tails look much like a spider. Their

skin too mimics the rocks of the terrain where these snakes live. Their use of *maya* is in the form of aggressive mimicry. The snake's tail has evolved to look like a spider and they use this characteristic in the form of *maya*. When there is a bird nearby, this snake hides its body among the rocks and moves its tail around to imitate the movement of a long spider. When the bird notices the "spider", it goes for the kill and just then, the prey and predator's roles are exchanged and the bird gets trapped in the illusion.

## **7) Thaumoctopus**

It is also called the mimic octopus and belongs to the Indo-Pacific regions. Like other octopuses, it uses its chromatophores to disguise itself with the background. What makes it different from the rest of the octopuses is its ability of impersonating a wide variety of other marine animals. Divers have reportedly seen this illusionary creature imitating wilder species like jellyfish, giant crabs, feather stars, seahorses and many more. Scientists believe that the mimic octopus chooses which animal to impersonate based on which predator is hovering around.

## **8) Snapping Turtle**

Despite having a powerful bite, these freshwater turtles disguise themselves among the dead wood and mud at the bottom of rivers and lakes, wiggling a small growth on their tongue within their open mouth. This growth mimics the movement and appearance of a worm. The turtle, proving itself a true fisherman, lies in wait until a fish becomes tempted by the bait and eventually turns into the turtle's dinner. In this example, it can be seen that this species' power is immense and there is seemingly no need for mimicry and maya. Still, the fact says it is being used.



Humans are no less in maya, but, if that continues, we humans might land ourselves into these violent forms of creatures, where maya has risen to become instinctual, where it fails to release its grasp. It is all up to us. Life is full of freedom and freshness when one trails on the path of honesty and saralta (simplicity). While in maya, the mind is forever flooded with the fear of being caught. It's we, who are torturing our minds to the levels of devastation.

# Maya And Mimicry



Brown Thornbill



Sleeper Cichlid Fish



Sabre - Toothed Blenny



Bushveld Lizard



Katydids



Spider - Tail Horned Viper





Thaumoctopus



Snapping Turtle



*Be the Inner You  
Be the Real You*

It takes a great amount of guts to outwardly show what we inwardly are. In our filthy, sensual lifestyle, we have surely encountered times when our preferences have been to showcase ourselves falsely, merely to instill a good impression on others. Such a pretense will in no way drive us too far, but one day, it will definitely drive us crazy beyond belief.

For the time being, things in life seem to be flowing exceptionally well; but if things continue to be carried out in this manner, sooner or later, our lives will break down into blood-tears.

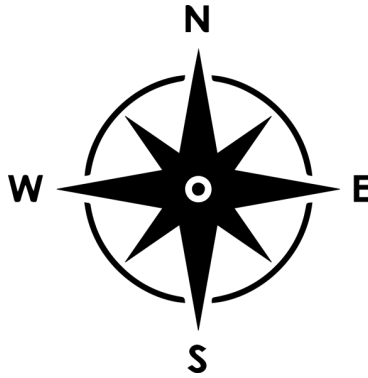
*Before Maya Shatters You*

*You Shatter Maya*

*Begin Playing the Illusionary  
Game with Maya*

*To Eradicate a Thorn  
You Need a Thorn*





# The Silent Preacher

## VISION

“Vision is the art of seeing things invisible to others”

-Jonathan Swift

One fact is undeniable that even if we excel in a certain trait, if others have it too, our trait won't be fully appreciated.

Wherever we might be in life, this fact makes it essential to differentiate ourselves from others,

and that uniqueness will not only make you stand out, but will play a major role in your progress.

There are a thousand species of birds all over the world, but one unrivaled trait belonging to the griffon vulture puts him apart from the rest of the birds. Europe's griffon vulture is gifted with such an incredible eyesight that it can suspect its prey on the ground, like a rabbit, from nearly 3.2km away. This makes him peerless since that rabbit would be simple invisible to all other birds.

This exceptional vision does distinguish griffon vultures from all others, but this is not the vision in question. The quote indicates a different vision, the vision relevant to the mind.

## **The Intrinsic Vision**

The griffon's eyesight is merely helpful in finding his prey and filling his stomach. No drastic change can be brought in the griffon on the mental plane with the aid of his eyesight. On the other hand, the vision mentioned in the quote will surely present its owner a productive form of knowledge, which in turn will build an unassailable state of mind.

There are numerous messages concealed within everything around us, and their accessibility

is solely in the hands of those profound people who have the inner eyesight to recognize their presence. Those messages will remain foreign to those without that sight. Their inadequate minds curb the flow of concepts from penetrating within.

It is this vision that makes spiritually profound people perceive those veiled concepts, which are downright invisible to others.

Nature is the most prominent entity among all to hold such secret lessons. It doesn't utter a word, but is willing to teach us a lot through demonstration. We dislike teachers who tend to constantly hammer their lessons. So here is a teacher for the job of preaching silently.

### *When the Student is Ready The Teacher Arrives*

## **The Diurnal Teacher**

As mentioned, to catch sight of these hidden concepts, we are demanded to install that vision which helps us unlock them. Nature is demonstrating tons of fascinating lessons daily. It is we who lack the vision to identify them.

*It is Time to Unravel those Concepts  
It is Time to Setup that Vision*

॥ नोदन्वानर्थितामेति न चाम्भोभिर्न पूर्यते  
आत्मा तु पात्रतां नेयः पात्रमायान्ति संपदः ॥

We desire numerous things for ourselves - “I want this” and “I want that.” That is not the problem. But to acquire these wants, we descend to the depths of begging. Desires are acceptable, but falling to such levels of helplessness and thereby behaving like miserable beggars is just not acceptable. We need to shape ourselves up.

The vast seas and oceans mutely preach the very same lesson. They never beg to fill themselves with water, but still never remain empty with water. All they have done is brought themselves to the accurate shape and size, inviting a surge of water into them. It is all due to their depths that they can hold such gigantic quantities of water within themselves. The only moral way to fulfill our desires is to shape ourselves so that they naturally flow towards us. Here, ‘Shape’ means to touch excellence in what we want success. That is all that we can do. Beyond that, circumstances are out of our reach. Once you pull out excellence from the depths of your caliber, and

thereby shape yourself up, success is bound to approach you and gladly make your dreams come true.

*No longer required to ASK  
Mould yourself and hit the TASK*



॥ उदयम्नि व अत्थमणे वि धरइ रत्तत्तणं दिवसनाहो  
रिद्धीसु आवईसु अ तुल्लिई नूण सप्पुरिसा ॥

The rising sun and the setting sun, both bear a very identical shade of orange. Though there is a huge difference between rising and falling, it does not result in a difference of appearance. In both conditions, it remains the same.

Our lives are full of ups and downs. There might be a phase when we are rising in our respective paths and a phase when it gets time for our sun to set down gradually. Forget gradually, destiny can bring that downfall in life within a day. One day, we might be relishing the zenith of our success and the very next day, that peak will cast us off.

As in all other situations, this act of destiny is out of our control and, as in all situations, we are only in control of ourselves. Let this fact seep

to the core of our souls. Let the outer world alter drastically, but tell your inner world that this is the fact of life. Convince your heart to stay untroubled. Persuade the delight, the ecstasy, to carry on in all areas of life, whether dull or bright.

We see the sun regularly, but now get close to the beautiful quality that it holds.

*In the giant wheel of life  
Ups and downs are all alive  
Motionless cannot be life  
“Emotionless” our only strive*



॥ अणविक्रिअ सपरजणे दिव्हे विउले जलम्मि वि घणेहिं  
मोत्तूण कलुसभावं पेच्छसु धवलत्तणं पत्तं ॥

The dark black clouds hovering above us can also teach us a profound law of the universe. When you give without discrimination, all the blackness within you vanishes. Before these rain-bearing clouds shed all the rain without even the slightest discrimination between people, they are pitch black. After this act of generosity, all the dark-

ness within them vanishes and they turn immaculately white.

In our case, we are generous, but to a very minute extent. When we give things we can still keep, we might seem generous, but that's not true generosity. True generosity lives in the act of giving away your desired item knowing it will never again be yours.

Even here, how far can we stretch our generosity. We can give a couple of desired things to others, but still we know that we have many other possessions. They will keep us delighted, so giving away a couple things will not affect us. But can we empty ourselves completely???. Are we ready to heartily give every desired thing to the needy???. Can we put others' happiness at the top of our priority list, keeping our happiness secondary??? I feel there is still time. There is a lot to improve. There is a lot to learn. When we can do so, just like these dark clouds, we too will turn immaculately white in virtue.

*Misers Might Get The  
Transient Materialistic Enormity  
But Givers Surely Get The  
Everlasting Spiritualistic Purity*





॥ यद्वदुमे महति पक्षिगणा विचित्राः,  
 कृत्वा आश्रयं हि निशि यान्ति पुनः प्रभाते  
 तद्वज्जगत्यसकृदेव कुटुम्बजीवाः  
 सर्वे समेत्य पुनरेव दिशो भजन्ते ॥

The life of birds easily draws our attention towards the blunt fact of life that our physical connections are temporary.

As the night falls, various species of birds approach a single huge tree for their night stay. They come from different directions and choose a tree as their shelter. There are various birds within the very same tree who spend a night together, but are quite aware of the fact that one bird has nothing to do with the other. They know they have been brought together only coincidentally, and just as the sun begins to scatter its rays, they will all fly away in various different directions, leaving behind no trace of their stay. There is just no scope for affection to take birth within the hearts of these birds for each other because of the unchangeable fact of tomorrow's departure.

Our family, friends, other close people, and

we ourselves, all hail from different previous lives and have just coincidentally been brought together in this life. We don't just spend one night together, but when compared with the endless expanse of time, the span of 80-100 years can easily be termed as a night. After the passage of this 'night', we too are bound to carry on towards our dissimilar destination, leaving all those short-lived companionships behind. The birds have understood this blunt fact and act in accordance to it. It's time for us to come to terms with this fact.

*Uproot The Affection  
Realizing The Interim Connection*



॥ मोहनिसाए भसल व्व भवमहाकमलकोसपडिबद्धा  
सूरम्मि व समुंते तुमम्मि जीवा विमुच्चंति ॥

As the sun goes down, the bees engrossed in sucking the nectar from lotuses get trapped within the bud. There is a kind of lotus which only blossoms in sunlight. The moment the sun sets, the lotus bud snaps shut.

The bees do not realize the possibility of this tricky capture, and so they carry on sucking the nectar. This turns out to be a deadly mistake for them. They do not notice the sunset and continue to indulge in the nectar. It is only when the lotus folds its bud that they realize that it is too late.

Now they are left only with one option - to wait. Wait for the next morning's sun when the bud will reopen itself, and they can once again be freed from the trap and fly as per their will.

We humans too are thoroughly indulged in sucking the so-called 'nectar of life'. In our indulgence, we forget that this is an inescapable trap. Life shuts us in within itself and we spend endless years in the pitch darkness of this despondent life. We find no path to guide us to liberty. We are bound to suffer the inseparable torments within the shut lotus of life, until the glorious sun in the form of the Lord touches the horizon.

The precise moment he arrives in our soul completely, the material life is left helpless and must reopen its trap, setting the long-locked soul free.

*His Arrival  
Signals Our Departure*



॥ शुद्धाः प्रसिद्धिमायान्ति लघवोऽपीह नेतरे,  
तमस्यपि विलोक्यन्ते दन्तिदन्ताः न दन्तिनः ॥

We have this inclination of choosing quantity over quality in whatever we are offered. It is a lack of foresight which convinces us to go for more or larger. We tend not to consider the purity of other small things.

Elephants are immensely huge. Their size itself can drive away any to-be-predators. But the complexion they bear on their skin is black. In contrast, the elephant's tusks are undersized, but bright white.

When the elephant is placed in darkness, its body, though enormous, is not readily visible. The white tusks, in spite of being small, are very easily visible, because of their white's purity.

This simple fact should convince us to change our tendency of overlooking purity and running for size and quantity. When such facts of life fully occupy our minds, the resulting change becomes inevitable.

This reality doesn't outright deny a preference for quantity, but teaches us that when we have merely two options – size or purity – our minds should automatically prioritize purity.

Small or big is never the question; but whichever it is should mandatorily be accompanied by the invincible surge of authenticity.

*Scriptures speak with a lot of reference  
Drill purity as your first preference*



## Outlandish Nature Outlandish Teachings

Beyond scriptures, there is an enormous collection of meaningful messages mutely exhibited by nature. Every minute concept that stays behind the curtain of nature is simply fabulous. To visualize these concepts, we essentially need to pull down the curtains. To do so, as previously elaborated, we just need to install the correct vision.

If such common, natural happenings have such crisp lessons for the world, then things that are unusually matchless can preach in an even superior style.

*Unfurl the oddities of nature  
Along with a lesson for this creature*

### **1) Lake McDonald: Montana, USA**

On the western side of Glacier National Park in Montana, USA, one will find a lake named Lake McDonald, and its stunning assemblage of rainbow pebbles.

God knows the accurate reason for such a plethora of colours to end up in one single location. The theory is that different rock hues were formed during different eras. Over time, fragments of each tint eroded away washing downstream into rivers. Smoothness and polish were gifted to these pebbles by water erosion, and eventually they made their way into the lake, creating a vast, multi-hued waterscape. This one single lake not only holds such quantities of pebbles, but all the pebbles are naturally so colorful that they seem painted with artificial color.

The captivating scene of this lake also has a fascinating concept concealed within it. Other lakes also have such an abundance of pebbles, but all

belong to the same tone; dark gray. Thus, this lake is distinctly unique.

The pebbles of various colours preach acceptance of all kinds of mentalities within us. When one believes one concept staunchly, the possibility of the other contrary concept is met with disapproval. Rigidity for a single concept prevents us from coming to terms with the fact that the opposite is also possible; for the same concept, from a different angle or point of view.

This makes us like other casual lakes having just one-coloured pebbles, which means possessing just one single obstinate mindset which can't be moved even slightly.

When we begin to accept a variety of possibilities in a single case, we begin to accept all varieties of mindsets within us. This makes us like this vibrant lake, Lake McDonald. When we prove ourselves capable of doing so, then just like the mystic atmosphere of this lake, our lives too will shine with a plethora of resplendent colours.

*"From an angle, even this is right"  
Conquer your obstinacy and visualize  
the world with this sight*



## 2 )Pasing River: Philippines

The strange feature of this river is its current, which surprisingly flows both ways. The direction of its flow varies according to the water level in Laguna de Bay, the lake at its source. Usually, the water flows from the lake into Manila Bay, but at the end of the dry season, the water level in the lake may drop below Manila Bays, resulting in a reverse flow of seawater from the bay into the lake.

This occurrence depicts the idea of versatility. When conditions alter, the river completely changes its flow, taking the exact opposite path during the dry season.

This teaches us that no act is wrong. In normal conditions, our normal act is faultless, but in other abnormal situations, it is quite crucial to act differently or even oppositely. In those abnormal situations, acting in a different way is the right way. This is what we call versatility, or adaptability.

We cannot always follow the treaded path. A change in situation demands a change in plan.

*Change Not The Goal But The Plan  
The Goal Is Your Soul  
And The Plan Is With That Man*





### 3) Death Valley: California, USA

Death Valley contains stones bestowed with a strikingly weird feature, earning them the name “sailing stones”.

No one has ever witnessed them in motion, but evidence of their travel is surely visible in the form of long track marks in the dusty grounds of Death Valley.

Scientists still aren’t able to put forward a fully accurate theory for the movement of these rocks which can easily weigh hundreds of pounds. The prevailing idea behind their motion might be the right conclusion. This idea is that when the rocks are wet or icy, they are pushed along the flat ground by strong winds. The marks left behind them indicate their travel of up to 700 feet from their point of origin. Basically, it can be said that these rocks move on their own by a totally natural process.

Numerous times in life, when we find ourselves unsupported, the pace of our progress drops down to zero. We start feeling the need for

that support, that push, which can revive our progress. Our want is one thing, but the reality is an utterly different matter. Our desire for support stays with us throughout life, but that desired support will surely not. Then, even in that lonely situation, it is essential to keep the flame of determination alive and thereby, revive the abandoned progress.

The rocks move despite the lack of someone to push them. In spite of being supportless, we too need to accept this fact and become self-reliant.

*In The Dead Of The Night  
When All Seem Out Of Sight  
Gathering The Inner Might  
Will Surely Launch Your Flight*



#### 4) Swifts

We constantly cry for things lacking within us. “I am incapable of doing so and so” regularly rings within our brains. It is next to impossible for us to settle with what we have, and that unsettled feeling weakens our drive to find a way out of our

limitations. We can surely live with that limitation happily if we have the strength to ignore it and see the other magnificent abilities within us. We can only reverse the impact created by the absence of something by the presence of another. Here, these birds teach us a terrific lesson.

These birds, called swifts, have a weird combination of long wings and short legs making it very uncomfortable and awkward for them to perch. Instead, they spend nearly their entire lives flying and even drink by skimming water off the surface of lakes and other water bodies, all without breaking flight. These birds even sleep and mate mid-air.

Their destiny gave them abnormal features, but not a single act of complaining or frustration from their side. On the contrary, they found out their very own unique style of survival. These birds naturally found their own way out of this potential misery, and so preach the same lesson to the world. Everyone is definitely not going to be gifted with only favorable characteristics. This is not a reason to lament, but an opportunity to find a quality within ourselves that will ensure we never feel the lack of that missing trait.

*The Quality Absent  
Can Make You Realize  
Your Unencountered "Present"*



### **5) San Rafael Waterfall: Ecuador**

The 150m high San Rafael Waterfall is Ecuador's tallest waterfall and it has been there for thousands of years. On February 2, 2020, something happened which caused this age-old waterfall vanish.

That day, a massive sinkhole caused the waterfall to disappear overnight. The sinkhole opened up right beside the falls on the Coca River in the Amazon rainforest, and diverted the gushing flow into three small streams, reducing the waterfall to a mere trickle.

This waterfall, which was cascading for thousands of years, vanished without a trace. Many such things - relationships, bonds, business empires, even people - that were there with us for a vast stretch of time, can disappear when a sinkhole appears in our lives.

This natural occurrence teaches us the law of transitoriness, and thereby prepares our mindsets to face such unfriendly situations - occasions during which, long-standing foundations can collapse within 24 hours.

If we remain unprepared, then these unexpected disappearances will generate disastrous emotions within our hearts. All we will be surrounded by is a lonely, isolated environment. Better to be prepared with the understanding that we might be interacting with this person or thing for the last time.

*Prepare For Losing  
Or  
Despair Of Waiting*



*Nature's Nature Is Elusive  
But Without It  
Flaws Turn Intrusive  
Caress Nature Where Facts Are Inclusive  
They Are The Ones Who Crafts Us Exclusive*



# The Silent Preacher

Lake  
McDonald:  
Montana, USA



Pasig River: Philippines



Death Valley: California, USA



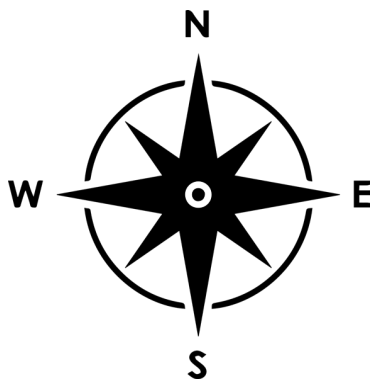
Swifts





**San Rafael Waterfall: Ecuador**





## Last Seen: 26/11/2008

Regardless of the size of the trip, we are perfectionists when it comes to planning. Every single planned point superbly executed. From departure to arrival, and from hotels to restaurants, our drafting is faultless. We plan everything exquisitely well. Right???

Utter rubbish!!! This was just a reflection of our bragging minds. By thinking in this way, we exist in the darkness of ignorance; but still, it isn't too dark yet. Departure for a trip is in our hands to some degree, but the departure from life is absolutely not in our hands by any means.

Full ignorant darkness is when one begins

to think that even the departure from life is in his hands. It is sheer stupidity when we plan our lives till 60, 70, or 80 years.

This is the ultimate darkness which has been blinding our eternal vision since ages. Let the other darkness be kept aside, we definitely have to drag ourselves out of at least this pitch-dark scenario of our mindset. Drive away this darkness. Lighten yourself with this deathless fact that death can any-time screw-up our lives. It is lurking around the corner 24\*7.

*Lighten Yourself with Knowledge  
And Thereby Enlighten Yourself*

*In your hand lies NOTHING...*

*You Have the Spark  
So Get Out of the Dark*

## **The Darkness Expands**

This law doesn't just apply to us, it is equal for everyone around us too. We approach everyone as if there is no chance of them falling down the next second.

We behave as if all our relationships were made everlasting and therefore, stand no chance of going downhill. We have seen and heard such fatal happenings taking place in the lives of others numerous times. So then, who can guarantee that we are not next on the list? Who amongst us can give their word that such incidents cannot spring up in our lives too.

### **इंद्रजालोपमा: स्वजनधनसंगमा:**

- Our beloved and our assets - all are nothing more than a magician's trick, present right now, but vanishing the very next moment.

In the very next moment, our mother might meet with an accident, cardiac-arrest attacks our father, a mishap may reveal itself in our children's life, our spouse might not wake up with us the next morning, our friend or close relative might be murdered brutally.

Their departure and the style of their departure is uncertain, but one thing is flatly sure:

***ANYONE - ANYTIME - ANYHOW***

## **The Splintered Heart Sprinkling Tears**

They depart, but leave behind a never-ending choking feeling of emptiness within our lives. There are still hundreds of people in our lives, but the mournful absence of that one single beloved person haunts us for the rest of our life.

All their various memories, all of a sudden, creep into our minds and cause unbearable emotional pain, shattering our hearts. Tears roll down our cheeks without respite. That person now only exists in the innocently smiling picture in our hand, no longer beside us to wipe the downpour of grief-filled tears.

All alone in a locked room, allowing none to witness our breakdown, we lose control over our minds and act brashly. Their face constantly flashes in our minds, refusing to fade away. It grasps our heart thoroughly, but the heart rebelliously beats at the speed of light, wanting to escape its grip and break into pieces.

Unable to accept the fact, we tightly hold the picture in front of our eyes. A sweet, lovely conversation begins with the person in the picture. Our maturity and emotional stability take a step back, and a childish nature takes their place. Every word comes out with sheer innocence. Later, realization

dawns upon our mind that we are only receiving a smile in reply. We demand a reply in a childish way, as if we have all the rights to it:

“Reply Fast Yaar! Am I the only person who should talk... Reply Quickly.... Fast Yaaaar...”

Further realization doesn't let this childish, demanding tone continue. A heartfelt tone, filled with heart-breaking pain steps ahead:

“Please Yaar! Don't do this with me. Just one reply naa yaar! Just one ‘I love you’ na yaar... Can't you see me crying for you...? Then why aren't you replying yaar! Please, Please, Please, replyyyyy... I can't bear your silence... You know that, na? Then why are you still silent... Please speak to me... Speak naa yaar... Just once tell me that you love me... Please Yaar!”

In the silence, no answer comes, yet in that quiet void, our tears speak without pause. An electrifying feeling of helplessness produces a tremor in our body. Life seems to have become dormant.

The joyous moments spent with that person once again trigger us. All those beautiful scenes run through our head like a short film. Those sweet little moments become the world for us. The silence grows deeper and deeper, allowing us to gather all the epic moments at our will.

The rush of these memories increases the

sobbing tenfold. We downright lose ourselves. Our closed eyes visualize the person right next to us. Our hand, trembling, creeps slowly towards the mentally imagined figure to touch their face with all the love and care possible on earth. As the hand gets close, the image vanishes, leaving the hand suspended in the air. An air of eternal emptiness locks up in the heart. We simply fail to come to terms with the sorrowful situation.

We unlock our phone and go through our favorite playlist. The scrolling stops because the eyes have found the heart's love. The song that was always played in the presence of two, is now sadly played for the ears of one.

Every word suddenly gains a deeper meaning, unnoticed before. In the silence of the atmosphere each word penetrates the ear like a sharp knife.

Once again, we get lost in our world with that person... Words flowing from the phone, but more meaningfully and traumatically, from our pulverized heart.

*Kuch pal to thehar jao na  
Ya phir laut ke aao na  
Yu kehnte nahi alvida  
Mudd jao idhar aao na*



*Tumhe dhoondhein meri aankhein  
Tumhe khoje meri baahein..*

*Tum bin jiya jaaye kaise  
Kaise jiya jaaye tum bin  
Tum bin jiya jaaye kaise  
Kaise jiya jaaye tum bin*

When we heard it before, it carried a different meaning and feeling. Now, in an entirely new reality, we've come to grasp its true meaning and feel its deepest weight.

All alone in the room with no one to hug and console, the loneliness becomes palpable. The knees rise up, as if inviting for a hug. We gratefully take the invitation and tightly put our arms around the knees. Envisioning them as the lost person, we bury our heads in them and permit ourselves to shatter into even finer pieces, and the unstoppable flow of tears leaves the eyes swollen, as the song moves on.

*Kitne the waade kiye  
Ik Pal mein tod diye  
Jhootha nahi tu mujhko pata hai  
Bas thoda rootha sa hai*

*Tu roothe main manau  
Par tum bin kahan jaaun*

*Tum bin jiya jaaye kaise  
Kaise jiya jaaye tum bin  
Tum bin jiya jaaye kaise  
Kaise jiya jaaye tum bin*

*Ye aasmaan aur zameen  
Bin tere kuch bhi nahi  
Saanson se mohlat  
Zara maang lena  
Yoon uthke jaate nahi*

*Ya phir tu mujhe le chal  
Sang apne jidhar tu chala*

*Tum bin jiya jaaye kaise  
Kaise jiya jaaye tum bin  
Tum bin jiya jaaye kaise  
Kaise jiya jaaye tum bin*

The music gradually fades away along with the tears, but the unblinking gaze and the choking feeling of having lost the world still finds no end.

No movements and no sound for a long time. The silence hammers the ears. The world seems to have taken a very long pause. Numbness envelops the body, creating the sensation that it no longer belongs to us.

Days pass by with many such occurrences, and the fact that that person's return is impossible carefully gets installed in our hearts. Despite knowing this fact, the unforgettable memories, the delightful face, the person's belongings, with which numerous incidents were connected, generate glistening eyes when they shed tears which roll down the cheek in memory of that long-lost person.

Touching and factual words within Vairagya Shataka wish to prepare us for the worst, if we agree to be prepared.

**ही संसारसहावं चरियं नेहाणुशगरत्तावि  
जे पुव्वण्हे दिट्ठा ते अवरण्हे न दिसन्ति**

- Vairagya Shataka  
Stanza 4

What a pathetic characteristic of Sansar. Our beloved ones, who were seen in the morning, fail to be seen in the evening.

We have no option but to accept such facts, because we know what can happen the very next

second. In spite of being aware of such facts, God knows why our mindset, our approach, and our lifestyle find no alterations. Grab the opportunity standing in front of you to bring change in your life, because life doesn't offer many.

*Someday That Someone  
Is Somehow Gonna Go Somewhere*

## **The Attacks of 26/11 Mumbai**

The highly infamous attacks on Mumbai on 26 November, 2008 generated a shocking tremor, whose vibrations didn't just stay concentrated in Mumbai, but flowed reluctantly all over India. Hostile terrorism gripped the nation for a very long time.

What all lacked within the Indian agencies that led to this attack is a different matter altogether. But the attack was the one, solely responsible for snatching close ones from the lives of innocent people.

All were unaware that the farewells they bid to their loved ones were going to turn out to be their last. The meeting in the morning was not just the last meeting of the day, but the last meeting of their lives. No one knew that their so-near and so-

dear ones, who were seen in the morning, would completely disappear by the evening of the very same day.

The people killed or injured were not the only victims who went through physical agony during these attacks. They obviously went through a harrowing ordeal for hours before being shot dead by the terrorists, but it was their family who had to carry the emotional trauma within their hearts for the rest of their lives.

This tragic incident labeled the victims with a tag - “Last Seen: 26/11/2008” – which, till date, generates an unsettled feeling within their family and friends. Let’s try to empathize with what they might have gone through...

### **1) Mohammed Israel Ansari**

This resident of Tardeo, Mumbai, was a simple taxi driver. On the night of Wednesday, 26/11/2008, he had driven his taxi to Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to drop off his ten-member-family to catch a train for Bihar.

He left his family at the station and went to the parking area when he heard sounds of shots being fired. Fear and immense worry clutched his heart. He ran straight into the station to locate his

family and was shell-shocked after seeing the scenario. He found six of his family members dead and two with severe bullet wounds.

The terrible scene left him supremely shaken, but his eyes were still in search of someone close who was still missing. He could not locate his 17-year-old son, Murtaza. He had made many rounds of the JJ Hospital in search of his son, but success never approached him. He still does not have a clue about his son's life.

## **2) Janardan Chitekar**

A migrant laborer and a native of Buldana, Maharashtra had called his children to Mumbai for the very first time. Little did their father know that this was not just their first trip to Mumbai, but also the very last trip of their life.

After their small Diwali vacation, Janardan left them at the Chhatrapati Shivaji station with their uncle. While he was leaving the station, deafening sounds of gunshots hit his ears. He rushed into the station but took time to find them. He first located his brother-in-law and enquired the whereabouts of his missing children.

Later he found his son's dead body lying on the St. George Hospital's floor but had no time

to ponder over it or weep right then because his daughter was still unfound. Just one visit to Mumbai grabbed away Janardan's children, Deepali and Rajesh, from him for the rest of his life. Days went by but their memories never departed from dwelling in his broken heart till his last breath.

### **3) Moshe Gavriel Holtzberg**

Another site where the terrorists attacked was the Nariman House. This building, which houses Jewish families, was turned into a battleground with walls blown apart and windows shattered.

There lived a Jewish rabbi named Gavriel Holtzberg with his wife Rivka and nearly two-year-old son, Moshe. As the terrorists captured Nariman House, the rabbi and his wife, along with six other Jews including Moshe, were held as hostages. It surely might have been a terrifying situation for Rivka and Rabbi Holtzberg to see their two-year-old son as a captive of the ruthless terrorists.

Fortunately, two hostages were rescued, including Moshe. This certainly would have been a relief for their parents. Shnior Kup, a family friend of the rabbi, was constantly calling their cell phones

since he heard of their captivity. He took baby Moshe under his care after he was rescued.

After the end of Operation Black Tornado on Friday evening, 28/11, the bodies of Gavriel and Rivka were recovered from the building, along with three more dead hostages. God remains the only witness for the traumatic tortures that they surely would have endured.

Another fact that will ignite our emotions is that it was Moshe's second birthday on Saturday, the very next day after his parents' dead bodies were found. He couldn't have his parents even till his second birthday. This is all that an emotional Shnior Kup could manage to say, "He is crying for his mother. I don't know how to console him."

#### **4) George Chatterjee**

The Chatterjees had planned a new life in their hometown of Kolkata, but their plan was interrupted by a tragic twist in the tale.

George had retired three months earlier from his job at a courier firm in Goregaon. The family was to board the Geetanjali Express train at 6am on Thursday, 27/11. But fate demanded they arrive much earlier, because of what was soon to happen in their lives.



George, with his mother, Meera, and wife, Shobha, reached the CST station twelve hours prior to their departure. That twelve-hour early arrival turned out to be lethal. After dropping off the two women, George went back to his residence in Nalasopara to collect the remaining luggage, which was considerable since they were leaving the city forever.

It was 9:50pm. While he was returning to the station, he became suspicious. George called his wife, but the call was not answered. After ten minutes, she did call back sounding terrified. Her words became increasingly unclear, shaken by fear. All that George could understand was, “Mother has been killed, they killed her”.

This stunned George to the core, and he hurried to the station and then to St. George Hospital where his mother lay motionless, but generating piercing emotions in her son’s heart. “I feel I have been deserted to face life on my own” were his only words after coming to terms with his mother’s forever departure.

### **5) Meetu Asrani’s Kin and Friends**

45- year-old Lean, an American ‘chat’ buddy of Meetu Asrani, had visited India and met Meetu at

Leopold Café in the Taj Hotel. Meetu helped Lean plan her holiday, but was unaware that there was a long holiday being planned for herself.

She was one of the first victims of the terror attack at Leopold Café. Disastrous screams reverberated in the Asrani household at Sector 3 in Charkop.

One of her relatives later said that she was extremely creative and Balaji Telefilms had taken her on as a creative associate, a post she was yet to assume. She was on cloud nine and full of enthusiasm that she finally found the job she was looking for. Her dream was about to come true, but her eyes could not stay open and watch it happen in reality. All her dreams stepped out of the world, along with her.

One of her relatives, Kranti Gupta, said with a note of intense outrage, that they expect the government to take action to prevent such promising young lives to come to an end this way.

## **6) Khusboo Jha**

The invitations were out, the caterer booked, the sweets distributed, the shopping all over. The wedding was to take place the very next week, but you know what happened next.

11th November, Wednesday, the phone rang late at night in Patna at the home of software engineer Khushboo Jha, giving her the news which left her in a state of disbelief and shock. She, in no way, could stem the overflow of tears.

Hundreds of kilometers south, in Mumbai, her fiancé, Malayesh Banarjee, a venture capital executive, was killed at the hands of terrorists as he dined with friends at Mumbai's Leopold Café.

Just 3 days ago, Khushboo's doctor father and lawyer mother had completed a pre-wedding ritual. The whole family overjoyed for the wedding, but who knew that it was to be short-lived, just like all other pleasures of this deceitful world.

Khushboo's next few days, months, or even years, need not be described. One can easily predict what she might have gone through after the news left her blank and numb.

## **7) Family of Gaurav Jain**

On the night of 28/11, Friday, another coffin was brought to Indore, bearing the body of 27-year-old Gaurav Jain. His family just couldn't sustain that sight. It is impossible for a parent to bear the shock of such a tragic incident.

His death was sentimental. After dinner, he

was standing by the roadside, accompanied by two friends. His phone rang, and the last conversation with his beloved mother, Kanta Jain, began. He gladly got engaged in the conversation, sharing the events of that day spent with his friends. The sweet little mother-son conversation was brought to an end by the word “Bye Mummy”. This simple farewell began to ring in his mother’s ears like a final gift from her son, but only after this upcoming incident.

He disconnected the call with his mother and only minutes later, a police car, seized by the terrorists passed beside them. Unfortunately, Gaurav turned out to be one of the numerous victims of their open-firing, leaving him dead, with his blood gushing onto the roads of Mumbai.

“Bye Mummy! *Ab phone rakhta hoon*” still tears Kanta Jain’s heart apart. Her son is no longer with her, only his memories to console her tear-filled eyes.

## 8) Family Of Laxmi Narayana Goel

A lawyer from Hyderabad, formerly the capital of Andhra Pradesh, was supposed to board his return train to Hyderabad, but that never happened.

He missed his train and informed his

family of that fact. He boarded a taxi to return to his sister's home. Within moments, the taxi exploded into a ball of fire after the grenades thrown by the terrorists detonated on it.

He is survived by his wife and four daughters. His badly disfigured body was identified from the documents he had.



All gone forever from the lives of their family members, but not before leaving behind a cryptic message for the world to be solved.

They were someone's mother, someone's fiancé, and another's friend. They all had many dreams - the ones who left the world and the ones they left behind. All the dreams they saw ended just as dreams.

Many had monumental expectations of the departed person. Many were about to start a new life with that person. For many, he or she was their only support for the rest of their lives, their only backbone. All disappeared without the faintest clue of their departure. They not only departed, but even stole their dreams from them.

In these cases, it was these families who were victims. In the next case, it might be us - someone

from our family or our beloved leaving the world and spreading emptiness in our lives.

These occurrences may strike our lives at any time. We have to prepare our lives for the worst. If we do not, we are the only ones who will be tormented by the absence of that one person. It will haunt us till we ourselves bid this world goodbye.

॥ पंचदिणाणुवरि न तुमं न धणं न ते सयणा ॥

- Hemchandracharya

Bhavabhaavana - 20

- Within the span of five days, neither you, neither your assets, nor your close ones will exist.

A very simple statement on the surface, but difficulties arise when it comes to embracing such bitter reality.

*There is Nothing Eternal on Earth  
The Things That Have a Start  
Have an End*

“भयवं ! एसा वि किं नयरी पाविहिइ  
विणासं मह कुलं च विष्फुरियगुरुयमाहप्पं ? ”

Krishna: Lord! Even this extravagant city of

mine and my highly acclaimed lineage has to come to an end?

“केसव ! जं किं पि जियलोए उप्पज्जइ इह वत्थु तं  
सव्वं भंगुरं सुरघणु व  
नयरं घरं सरीरं तरुणो गिरिणो समिद्धि य ”

Lord Neminath: Keshav! (Krishna) Whatever takes birth in this world will doubtlessly vanish, just like a rainbow, whether it is a city, a house, one's body, trees, mountains or wealth.

We always have our finger pointing straight towards our fate, blaming it and crying about it when something or someone collapses in our life. We love complaining, but never prefer learning.

Why don't we learn when life, with the help of numerous incidents around us, is willing to teach us the best lesson of life –

*Be prepared for  
anything and everything*

In reality, it's not the person's departure or absence that inflicts distress, but it is our dependency and our attachment that destabilizes us.

पुरिस्सा तुममेव तुमं मितं  
किं बहिया मित्तमिच्छसि

- Hey man! You yourself are your friend.  
Why do you wish for another external friend?

- Adhyayana III Uddesh-5

This soul has tremendous strength to be dependent on none other than itself. In spite of all such teachings of scriptures, as well as the prominent teachings of life, we still feel the need for someone - someone who can be our backbone when we grow up.

विनय ! चन्तय वस्तुतत्त्वं, जगति निजमिह कस्यं किम्  
भवति मतिरिति यस्य हृदये दुरितमुदयति तस्य किम् ॥

-Shaanta Sudharas

Disciple! Contemplate the original characteristics of everything “What and who on earth is mine?” The one who has such a mental approach to all the situations of life can never be tortured even by the most traumatically towering events of life.

**BEGIN THE PREPARATIONS  
FOR WEAKENING YOUR EXPECTATIONS  
THE ONLY WAY TO ATTAIN  
BLISSFUL ELEVATIONS**

