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**AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF
PRINCIPAL DR. SUDHAKAR JADHVAR SIR**



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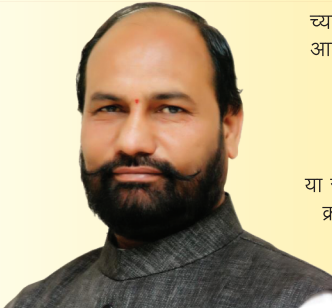
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Published by : **Kalyani Corporation,**
“Mangesh-Shree”, RenukaSwaroop School Lane,
Behind S.P's Biryani, Sadashiv Peth,
Pune - 411 030
9822192210

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Marathi Script Writer : Prin. Dr. Sudhakar Jadhavar

English Translated by : Prof. Ajit Thakur

Hindi Translated by : Prof. Smita S. Jain (7391903294)

Design and Layout by : Mr. Satish Chaware (8805552818)

First Edition : October 2023

Printed by : Kalyani Corporation, Pune

Published Qty. : 1000

Price : 200

PREFACE

I am happy to present this book to you all, at the same time I am a bit regretful too. I am happy because I have been wanting to write my autobiography for the last 8/10 years. But because of preoccupations it was not possible. Now during the Corona pandemic, I found some time and could complete the book within five weeks. I am happy for this but I have some regrets because I have written only the truth in this book. I feel a little distressed because what I have written may hurt some people. Though so many people have taken disadvantage of me and have cheated me, I bear no grudge against them nor do I have a feeling of revenge against them because they have given me so much experience. I am not distraught because I have never interpreted anything in a negative manner. I have always taken something positive. I have learnt a lesson from every experience. Whatever I am today is the result of these experiences. I did not want to write so candidly about some people but I feel, only because of such people I could progress in my life. If they had behaved well with me, this Organization may not have come into existence and I would have remained an ordinary Professor. Therefore, I am really very thankful to people who have acted wrongly with me. I will never be able to repay their obligations, so I would prefer to remain always very grateful to them. They may feel bad as I have mentioned them with their names. They may be right in thinking so, but I have written this book with my perspective. I would like to state on oath that I have placed before you what I have felt and what I have experienced exactly as it happened in my life. Therefore if anyone is hurt, if anyone's pride is wounded, I wish they would be broadminded enough to pardon me. I would like to apologize to them because I have treated all such people as my Gurus, and have held their experience in high esteem.

I have tried to put in writing what I remembered exactly as it took place. While describing a time period of fifty years, I may have forgotten some important people and their experiences and I hope they will forgive me. But one thing is sure that In God's name, I have written whatever I remembered in a very truthful manner. But I can only say that this is not just an autobiography but a true story of an honest person who has worked day and night for over fifty years. I am sure many events in my life described in this book will inspire the readers. I simply hope that the next generation will be inspired by the fact that someone who hails from an ordinary village can create such an widespread empire in a city like Pune.

DEDICATION

I am dedicating this autobiography to my mother Mrs. Sundarbai and my father late Shri Uddhavrao Jadhvar from whom I have always been inspired and to my grandfather late Shri Tulshiram Jadhvar who has always given me ideological inspiration and encouragement.

They have always motivated me and given me the message:

There is nothing impossible in this world

Everything is possible

If you are committed to your mission

Anything is possible.

I would like to pay respectful homage to my grandfather and dedicate this book to him.

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CHAPTER 01**VADJI**

‘Vadji’ is my native place. It is situated in a remote corner of Marathwada; not just Marathwada but at the corner of Usmanabad District. Located at the corner of the old Kalamb Tehsil or new Vashi Tehsil, this is a small village with a population of just around 2000. It is surrounded by a number of Tehsils and neatly placed at the border of the District. This village has a very interesting geographical pattern. There is a very hilly terrain at the West while there is very fertile and black soil in at the East. Let me tell you a special feature of this soil – Once rains wet the land and Jowar is planted, you need to go the land only once for harvesting ; so rich is this soil! The village also has a historical background because this is the last village in the Nizam State. The village is located in Dandakaranya and the famous Karodgiri Naka is located in this village. On one side there is Hattik Jotiba Mandir while on the other side there is Bemai Mata Mandir. Just a little ahead, there is Tukai Mata mandir and later thereafter is Yedeshwari Mandir. These places find a reference in Ramayan too. So this is truly a historical place.

The village has a tradition of Drama for more than 100 years. In those days even my grandfather used to act in various plays. The village has seen musical plays like ‘Sangit Bhuvan Sundari’. My father used to tell me that whoever acted in these plays had to pay out some contribution (called ‘Patti’) like Bhishi. The actor who received the Patti had to work at the house of the other actor for one year. This actor (without coming on the stage) had to speak only from behind the curtain. The Boss would ask on the stage,” Who’s there?” and this actor had to reply from the wings,” Sir, it’s me, Manaji.” And just for this small part in the drama, he had to serve the boss for one year. Such was the fascination or liking for Acting in those people. That’s how it was in our village.

As there were hills on one side of the village, our cattle had free supply of grass for nearly six months and they could eat fodder from the farms for remaining six months. As a result there was substantial milk production and that was a healthy side business for the villagers. Our village has a good supply of drinking water. This water from village wells is said to be ideal for making Papadams. Another specialty of this

water is that the entire village uses only this water for drinking and hence, children born in our village are never born blind, lame, handicapped or retarded as compared to other villages; all of them are born without any disabilities, have a very disciplined nature and are very good-looking.

Since ages our village has boasted of school culture. The village had a school up to 7th Standard. Our girls were also highly educated compared to those from other villages. This was so because there was 'Shankar Maharaj Math' at Pandharpur in those days. Children from our village used to accompany Baba for Kirtans. They used to spend time with Maharaj for nearly six months playing Mrudang, Gongs and Harmonium and for singing Bhajans. Therefore Baba used to have frequent Kirtans in our village. Shankar Baba used to say in his Kirtans, "Listen to me folks, you may even sell your land but do educate your children," Shankar Maharaj was Gadge Maharaj's disciple and he had spent many years with 'Gadge Maharaj'. His life style was just like Gadge Baba wearing a torn shirt with several patches; his health was robust like a wrestler and his language was very rustic. Therefore all the villagers were closely attached to Baba's teachings.

Our village had a nice percentage of educated people. Earlier we followed many good traditions. There was recitation of Ramayan; every year there used to be recitation of one or the other 'Pothi' at the 'Chavdi'. During the rainy season we children could not go out to play so, with no other recourse, we used to go to the Chavdi. Invariably, they used to have recitation of our own family book 'Ram Vijay' pothi at that time and our elders forced us to listen to the Pothi for hours. While reading such books and learning their meaning, I became fond of many religious books and it helped me a lot in later life while giving lectures on various subjects.

Our village was also unique in the sense that most of the population was in dire financial straits. I had never seen people living so happily eating just 'Chutney and Indian Bread' No one ever discussed poverty nor ever felt bad about being so poor. On the other hand, they used to chat happily with each other and lived merrily.

This was the last village from 'Nizamshahi'. My grandfather used to tell me from his experience that Nizam had caused great fear and terror among local people in those days. Hyderabad was the capital of our area during Nizam's days. Nizam's was an independent State because Nizam was subservient to the British regime. When people saw just a single police approaching the village, they used to flee with the family to the opposite side of the village towards the hills. Then the Police would steal all sheep and hens from the village. So much was the terror perpetrated by Nizam in those days. There was British rule in a neighboring area 5 km away from our village. Therefore this village on the border had assumed great importance. ◆◆◆

CHAPTER 02

GRANDFATHER

Within the outskirts of our village, ‘Dajiba’s Wada’ or residence was the most famous place. ‘Dajiba’ was my great grandfather. Wearing bright white dhoti, kurta, jacket he perched on a horse- looking a very elegant and resolute personality! In those days, Brahmins did not allow non-Brahmin people to eat side by side with themselves. But our great grandfather was always invited to sit just next to them. A number of Brahmins resisted this practice but the Jahagirdaar and Kulkarni from Indapur never agreed with them. My grandfather used to tell me a story. He said, ‘When my great grandfather’s friend Mr. Kulkarni was sick, he lost his speech; he could never speak until he died later on. My village was about 10 km away from his place. He always used to point his finger towards our village. His children used to tell him that they would never forget his friends, he should not worry at all. “But still, he used to slap his forehead in despair because his family members could not understand what he wanted to say. Finally Kulkarni Jahagirdar met his death. After his funeral, after the 13th day rituals and after the first death anniversary, my great grandfather visited Kulkarni’s house. He called his son who was the head of the family then and brought him to our village. He took out a huge bowl filled with money from the Jowar storage and said,’ Just check the seal on the bowl. It has a note inside. They found 40000 ‘silver Surati Rupees’ inside, whose value today will be in hundreds of crores. However, he returned their money very honestly and told him ‘Long ago, there was a dacoity at your place. At that time, your father took out this money from his other residence and sent it to your place in a bullock cart. I kept it in this Jowar storage godown. Please take back your own treasure” So honest were people in those days and I am born in such a family. I am really proud of my ancestors.

‘Dajiba’ had four children. My grandfather was the third child—Tulshiram Dajiba Jadhvar! He was very resolute, he had robust health like Ramdas Maharaj, he had solid curving moustaches and a high class personality. He used to practice

wrestling up to the age of sixty. He was very adamant and hot tempered. One year, they had a wrestling festival at a nearby village called Koregaon. We used to call him 'Bhau'. That time Dajiba had stopped wrestling but his younger brother Hariba was in the wrestling ring. Hariba's health was also solid; he was quite tall and robust like Ramdas Maharaj. But his weaker opponent brought him down rather quickly. The whole crowd erupted into laughter. That was a terrible insult for Dajiba's Wada and dynasty. My grandfather became berserk because of the dishonor to the family. He threw away his headgear, he entered the ring and challenged the opponent. He told him: I am certainly going to wrestle with you, but just bring along your Guru. I will wrestle with him first and then I will tackle you. He defeated both of them in just two minutes each and salvaged the honour of the family. That was how he was! When his father or elder brothers gave him any assignment, he would complete them before time and report the same to the elders. His perseverance was wonderful. Our farm and those belonging to our near relations were 8 miles away from each other. They began ploughing their fields before us. Dajiba heard of this and he brought some bullocks from 3 km away, gave them enough water to drink and with the help of two ploughs, he ploughed our entire farm of 12 acres before they did theirs. His farming used to draw praise from everyone and people wondered whose farm is this?

After the Holi and 'Dhulwad' festival, our village had a tradition of playing 'Kar'. My grandfather, his other brothers, cousins went to the mountain side for playing 'Kar'. He used to call his elder brother "Anna". Anna had a strong body like Rana Pratap and he moved around everywhere astride a horse with a gun on his shoulder. He saw a tiger and shot at him. As it happened the bullet struck the tiger's leg and the tiger began running lamely. Grandfather was quite young. He and his cousin ran forward to catch the tiger. The tiger ran into the neighbouring village. People from that village too began running after the tiger. One person from the crowd threw a spear towards the tiger. The spear hit a man in his thigh, he was from his own village. There was utter chaos. The whole opposition crowd ran towards my grandfather and four of them caught hold of my grandfather. Two persons were pulling him and held his hands while two persons were pushing him from the back. My grandfather took support of a rock and stood erect. He held his ground until all of his own people came running from behind. He did not move an inch from where he stood. Still four persons were pulling and pushing him. Such was his enormous strength!

Once while we were watering sugar cane fields, some field workers told him that there was a tiger hiding in the field. Anna came there with his gun and shot a bullet. The tiger began running fast. Anna and his brother Appa went after him to catch the

beast. Appa had an axe while Anna had a spear in his hand. Appa was so fast that he caught up with the tiger and hit the tiger on his hip bone above his legs. The tiger went wild and jumped back and attacked Appa. Just that moment, Anna thrust his spear straight into the tiger's belly and saved his brother's life.

My grandfather or Bhau as we called him was very strong. Once, few strong young boys were sitting on a platform in the village. There was a bullock cart on the side and it was empty. One of the wrestlers said "I will easily lift this cart." He rested his back against the cart and lifted four wheels of the cart nearly two feet high. Then there was a competition among the boys. One other wrestler said 'I will lift the cart with two children sitting inside.' He too lifted the cart. Then a third, fourth wrestler performed the feat. Finally my grandfather said, "All ten of you sit in the cart and I will lift it." He made ten wrestlers sit in the cart and raised it nearly two feet up. As a result, his back had a sharp shooting pain. When Saradar Vallabh bhai Patel had developed a bulge in his armpits, he touched that portion with a hot steel rod. That is why he is called the 'Iron Man' of India. Ajoba was also scalded four times with a red hot rod like him. He was really like the Iron Man for us at that moment.

After Maharashtra State embraced 'Panchayt Raj', there were 'Gram Panchayat elections' in our village. Ajoba became 'Sar Panch' twice. For ten years continuously, he was our Sars Panch. There used to be Group 'Gram Panchayats' at that time. He was Sars Panch for two villages, Vadji and Mhasobachi Wadi at the same time. He was running the affairs of both villages very well. The old school building and Gram Panchayat premises that you see even now were built during his tenure only. In those days, the Sar Panch controlled the quota of sugar. I clearly remember how I thrust my hand in sugar bags and ate handfuls of sugar at one go. In all of ten villages nearby, only our family boasted of a radio set. People used to gather at public places to listen to some programmes of their choice. I remember, at that time, there was a rumour that 'America's Skylab' was going to fall on earth and we were all going to die. With this fear in mind, people were trying to make the best of remaining days by eating a number of sweets and good food. Nobody knew when someone will die and who will survive. The whole village was awake on the day Skylab was supposed to fall. Ajoba was sitting at the boundary of the village with his radio set; various announcements were being made on the Radio. Skylab was supposed to pass over India or fall on India between 11 and 12 at night. All the people were listening to the news dead scared. Finally 'Skylab' fell into an ocean at around 11-30 at night and everybody heaved a sigh of relief.

After Ajoba's tenure as 'Sar Panch' was over, an auditor had come to audit the

accounts of the Gram Panchayat. He saw the Radio and asked for the same. As the entire village had only one Radio and as Ajoba was very much fond of it, he refused to part with it. The Auditor was quite upset and vowed to take a revenge. There was rationing in those days. He charged that there was no proper accounting of bags and fined Ajoba for 1800 Rs. If Ajoba had given the Radio to him, he would have exempted the fine. But as he was refused, the Audit remark stayed on record. 1800 Rs was a very big sum of money in those times. How to collect and pay such a high amount ? It was a very sad day. Ajoba who had never seen the face of any moneylender in his whole life, approached a moneylender named Kedari Savkar. He lent 1800 Rs at heavy annual interest and we had to shell out a big fine because of this audit. Our family came into the clutches of the moneylender.

Kedari Savkar was a good person; Ajoba had good relations with him. For many years he used to pick cereals like Wheat and Jowar as interest from our farms. Later on, there was severe drought in that area. Not a single drop of rain fell on our village in 1972. A drought was declared. 'Indira Gandhi' was our 'Prime Minister' then. She was going to visit our Tehsil in her tour of drought stricken areas. I was studying in 6th standard. We had no money; I was upset over something, the previous day. I was given 10 Rs to bring some stuff from the market. I managed to buy all essentials in just 7 Rs and sent all the stuff home through someone. I went to Kalamb to see Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The fare was one rupee. Two rupees were sent on travelling and I remained with one rupee. Even there, Suryabhan Morale took 12 annas from that money and I had only four annas left with me. How to fill the stomach, how to survive for two days? I went to Dada Hari Guruji's place, but I told him that I had eaten already. Next day morning I went to the ground at 4 am. The Prime Minister was to arrive in the afternoon. I was terribly hungry and I was not in my mind at all. When the helicopter landed, I felt nice for a few minutes. This was my second day without any food. When I came out, I bought some berries for ten paise, but I could not even swallow them. I came by bus to Terkhede. There I went to a sugarcane field, broke a piece of sugar cane and ate it very fast. I started feeling better. 'Indira Gandhi' had initiated drought area projects like making roads and breaking rocks for road building. I was in the sixth standard then. I was quite young but all others in the family went to break stones. I have seen with my own eyes how my elder brother used to carry stones in a cart. People used to eat 'Satu' flour at that time. One businessman began distributing a sweet called Sukdi to workers as per the work done by each person. Cattle food like Ilo Nilo, Red Jowar was imported from America. I was a witness to this terrible drought, suffering of the population and struggle for survival. From that

time, we stopped paying interest on Kedari Savkar's loan. Ajoba was getting older too. He was really a great honest man. Kedari savkar was sure that his money will not get lost. Ajoba used to hug me and tell me; "My child Sudha, I have only one burden on my head and that is the loan from Kedari Savkar. Once I pay him off, I will be free to die. I do not want to live under anyone's obligation." I became a Professor at Barshi in 1985 in front of Ajoba. I got a job as a Professor of Commerce at Shivaji Maratha College in Pune on 20th June 1986. I decided in my mind that I will repay Kedari Savkar's loan. Ajoba told me to give 2000 Rs. I paid this amount to Kedari Savkar. After a few days, Kedari Savkar fell ill and died of Jaundice. But I could free Ajoba from his debt.

Ajoba was very resolute and adamant. I was greatly impressed by his philosophy. I always felt that I should imbibe all his virtues and become just like him. Our family was getting poorer because of the drought, Savkar's debt and constant harassment from our step mother. To get matters worse, four of our bullocks were poisoned by someone and our entire land became useless. We were totally consumed by utter poverty. Some of our relations wanted our position to deteriorate further so that we would sell our land to them. There was an occasion when a drunkard person was called to remove fuses from our pump sets which resulted in total drying of our sugar cane and wheat crops. I cut some sugar cane myself and gave it to our cattle to eat. How to come out of this? I never blamed our relatives for this because when times are bad, people tend to behave in this manner. Such a rich family was pushed towards desperation! The situation became so grim that for fifteen days at a stretch, we did not have money to go to the market, not even ten rupees. It was difficult to buy any vegetables, not even chutney that time. My sister and sister-in-law did not even get enough oil to apply to their hair for months together. The family was in dire straits. My two brothers were not competent enough and did not work to Ajoba's expectations. So Ajoba used to get quite irritated. He had only one son and he was looked after quite carefully. But his sons were not working to Ajoba's satisfaction. Ajoba called me and said; 'My child Sudha, look here, where we used to pick gold, we are collecting cow dung because of an inefficient family. What pomp and grandeur we had once upon a time! And we have to see such days at the fag end of our life'. He could not bear it any more and began to weep. I felt very sad, his weeping and words had a profound effect on me. I was young then, I was still going to school. But I decided to look at our farm. I took a helper with me and cleaned up a whole acre of sugar cane grass with his help within just eight days. From that day, his words keep ringing in my ears and since then, I have been working day and night, not caring even for food and water. That was the

inspiration I received from my Ajoba.

Ajoba always used to say: 'If anyone, only Sudha will bring up the family.' I found a job when he was around and he was extremely happy. In 1984-85, I opened a grocery shop in our village which made him very happy. Later, I bought a Jeep with a number plate 6161 with participation from my cousin and took Ajoba for a ride through our area which elated him greatly. With his will power, he lived for another ten years. Later on, several new legislations in favour of women came into existence. The first wife of my father filed a case and the case was concluded in her favour. Ajoba thought that in reality, it was she who refused to come to the family and yet the judgment was in her favour. This was just not right. Greatly depressed, he did not enter our village for next 15-20 years. He was so resolute in his mind. He was widely read and had read many books. He had read all my textbooks right from first to tenth standard.

He did not wear spectacles, no outside help, no sickness of any kind and he lived for 107 years. Finally one day, he took his last breath quietly. That's how great was Ajoba, my inspiration and motivation. I cannot forget him even for a single day, his image remains etched before my eyes all the time and it is because of his encouragement that I have been working without a break even today.



CHAPTER 03**DADA - MAI (AABAI)**

My father Uddhavrao Jadhavar was a very modest, amicable person. No one can remember if he ever spoke ill of any one throughout 80 years of his life. He had such robust health and did rigorous exercise! There was a huge stone in the village gymnasium. He used to push it forward and backward very easily during his exercise. He used to lift it with one finger. Ajoba was very hot tempered. My father was his only son and he had two daughters. The first sister died, so the second one was married to the same person. But my father's brother in law had a very adamant and complaining nature. He was always highly drunk. My father's sister spent her whole life in such a situation. In our childhood we used to visit our aunt's house in another village. We were very scared of her husband. He was always very abusive and would get angry on anything whatsoever. But he would not say a word against us. Ajoba was very strict, so my father was always under his control. Being the only son, Ajoba used to take good care of him. He would do everything himself and would not let his son go out. That is why my father remained quite soft. Being worried about outside influence, Ajoba never let him try anything. My father too became a member of Gram Panchayat twice. Later my elder brother became a member four times and Deputy Sar Panch for ten years while my younger brother is a member for the last 15 years. That was the tradition – since the formation of Gram Panchayat, my family always had a member in the Gram Panchayat.

When my father came to my place in Pune, he used to say; “Here no one invites any one at home. Everyone is busy in his own work. This is really a golden cage. “In fact, he never liked to stay in Pune. He would get uncomfortable just after ten/fifteen days. After a week or so he would insist on my sending him home. Somehow, we managed to buy a guntha of land in Pune for building a house at that time. He was very happy with this news. My friend Professor Bhoite working with me that time, built his bungalow around that time. My father always used to ask me,” How will you build a house? From where will you get any money? How will you do all this?” But I

built a house during his lifetime. He was very happy when we had our own house in Pune. As my mother expired when we were small, my younger sister suffered quite a lot. When she died, my younger brother was just six months old. Our grandmother brought him up.

When our mother expired, I was in 8th standard. My older brother Madhu had his tenth standard exam at that time. He had to give his examination paper after attending the mother's funeral. Our other grandmother was very strict. She used to harass my mother very much. But my mother never had a word of dissent. She was always sick with something. When I went to the market, I used to buy some eatables for four annas. I used to go to our farm on a Sunday afternoon and give that food to my mother secretly. My mother lived under such terror all the time. But she left us here and went to her heavenly abode. During the birth of my younger brother, she developed some illness and she left the family very abruptly. She died because she could not get proper medicines and treatment. Just see how profound is a mother's love for a child! My father's mother had gone to her daughter's place for a few days. She had chronic health issues at that time. She used to love her only son profoundly. My grandmother was a very affectionate person. She would never let a poor person leave her house without having some food. She always remembered her son. Her place was 25/30 km ways. But she was not ready to stay at her daughter's place. It was the rainy season and Manjra river was fully flooded. Still she insisted, "Just take the cart into the river, nothing is going to happen" They pushed the bullock cart into the flooded river. It was because of her pious belief that the cart crossed the river safely. By sunset, the cart reached her village. Immediately after reaching home, she asked, "Where is my son? Where is Uddhav?" They began looking for her son. He came and she hugged him. As it was sun set time, she asked him to light all the lamps. She laid her neck on the son's lap and pointed to the lamp and she had her last breath. Just out of love for the son, she returned home in difficult circumstances and breathed her last. It appeared as if she held her life just to see her son for one last time. This is how a mother's love is. I always had a regret in my life—I could not serve my mother. My mother left me when I was just 14 years old. My father survived till I got a job. But I had to stay away from home for education and service, I could not serve my father too. Sometimes I had no time, sometimes I was helpless because of circumstances and was not much useful for my father. I will regret this till the end of my life.

As my mother (Aabai) expired because of paucity of medicines, I always had a question in my mind: Is there no savior for the poor? I must do something for them. When I went to college, I decided that that I should set up 40 dispensaries in my

village. I was studying at Barshi at that time. Just that year the Nargis Datt Cancer Hospital was commissioned at Barshi. I had good relations with Dr. Kashyapi. He organized a bus for the cancer hospital which had full facilities for medical treatment. They used to charge just one rupee and twenty five paise per km and this bus began providing medical services in our village and nearby places every Sunday. Dr. Vaidya was the surgeon at the Cancer Hospital. His mother too had died because of lack of medicines. He was an excellent surgeon. Whether the Cancer bus may arrive or not, he would visit our village every Sunday to check patients. He used to ride on a bicycle for 5/6 kms and used to travel the rest of the distance by bus. He never charged any money to his patients. He carried on like this for two years. I got a job in Pune. Most of the people used to go to him because of his good treatment. There was some politics and some false allegations were leveled against Dr. Vaidya and he was asked to resign. My desire to open a dispensary and serve the poor is still unfulfilled and I want to fulfill the same even now. The only matter of satisfaction is, at that time we were successful in treating a number of women suffering from Breast and Uterus cancer.

Once I had a phone call from my village saying Dada i.e. my father was very serious. In fact, I had sent him to Solapur earlier. But my elder brother Madhu should have brought him from Solapur to Pune instead of our village. But he did not do so and took him to the village. He used to be locked inside and was left alone at home after everyone went to the fields in the afternoon. I felt very sad when I learnt of this. I started from my home at six o'clock in the morning. I had a Padmini 118 at that time and I did not have a driver. I took my cousin H.R. with me and went to our village immediately. Really, there was no one at home. My father was locked inside and the rest had gone to the fields. I opened the door. My father asked in a frail voice, 'Who is it?' I said, "Dada, I am Sudha and I have come from Pune to take you there." He began crying aloud after hearing my voice. I too could not stop tears from my eyes. I put him in my car and brought him to Pune. I traveled 270 kms to the village and 270 kms back to Pune. I felt very sad at the treatment given to him by my elder brother. I admitted him to Ruby Hall Nursing Home. My mother-in-law was also with me. I left her at the hospital and came back home at 11 at night. Dada was suffering from Bone Marrow problems. Whatever amount of blood was given to him, it was drained very quickly. He was probably not fed well or may not have been looked after properly as his wife or my mother had expired rather early. But he never uttered a word of complaint nor spoke against any one. It was difficult even to take out a blood sample from his body for testing. After eight to ten days, his health was going down day by day. One day, I was carrying his dinner to the hospital. It must have been 10 o'clock at night. Both my

elder brother and younger brother were there only. Dad had lost his speech two days earlier; he could not utter a single word.

However that day, he was trying to say something. I got an indication that his end was coming nearer. I was going to return home after giving him food. But I did not go back, I stayed with him. He seemed to repeat one sentence again and again. He was desperately trying to say 'Sudhakar, Madhavrao, Sudhakar, Madhavrao---. But he could not speak. He was constantly trying to speak. Just then a Doctor came with a machine to check his head. It must be around midnight. I told that the Doctor, "He is about to breathe his last, I can see his struggle, There is nothing wrong with his brain and why are you checking his head?" I was quite upset, but the Doctor left from there. After about an hour or so, he must have expired. Such careless are our Hospitals! The sentence that dad wanted to say was for my younger brother Madhavrao. We lost our mother when he was six months old. He was still a student, "I, as a father am leaving; what will happen to him? How will he live? Where and how will survive? "All such questions were making him hold on to life and he was trying to explain this again and again. Dada was trying to say just one sentence for two days and finally he managed to complete the sentence. He wanted to say," Madhavrao, you should listen to Sudha." That was his only successful effort to say something. I promised Dad that I will look after Madhavrao like my own son. He heard this and that very moment, life went out of him. I came to know at that moment what a father's love and heart is. Dada did not speak much but he used to care for all his children. Really blessed are those parents who gave birth to us and brought us to this earth.



CHAPTER 04

CHILDHOOD

My father was the only son of my grandfather. But he had four sons including me and a daughter. We had two step sisters. I came to know that we had a step mother when my mother died and when I was in 8th standard. Therefore we did not have much contact with them later. Ours was a full- fledged family. Our grand mother never let us feel the absence of a mother. Dinkar was the eldest, Madhukar was second, I Sudhakar was third, Madhavrao fourth and Vanmala sister followed later. Until our mother was alive, our financial position was fair enough. But after she died it was as is Goddess Laxmi from the house disappeared and our position began deteriorating day by day. Dad did not have enough money to pay for our stepmother and was given a simple jail sentence for one month because of failing to pay Rs 1900. When I went to see him in the jail, he began to cry loudly and pleaded to others to take me away from there.

I remember that I took admission to 11th standard at Barshi. As he did not pay the alimony, Dada received frequent warrants. Therefore Dada came to my room at Barshi to stay with me. I was away from home for the first time and I did not know how to cook. I was trying to learn making Bhakri, Indian bread from Hybrid Kal. Frequently my Bhakri used to break into pieces while roasting, but I joined them somehow; half burnt Bhakris used to get ready, and we survived eating them without any chutney or vegetables.

The Court at the Tehsil gave an adverse judgment against Dada. Dada was married during pre-independence period. That time there were hardly any laws supporting women. But my stepmother had filed a case after 40 years as per new laws in force. Because of internal politics in the village, other leaders from the village deliberately pushed the case very strongly. Because of new laws for women, Dada lost the case. He was given a month's imprisonment too. He had no money for making an appeal. Our Ambadi crop was ready to harvest in the fields. A woman called Bhagamay

used to work in our farm. I took her help to harvest Ambadi. Ambadi plants are very troublesome, they have very minute thorns. We never felt any problem while taking out Ambadi. But when we thrashed them with hands, the resulting pain showed us how dangerous the thorns were. I sold the Ambadi crop and received 60 Rs. I took the money to Kalamb, the Tehsil place. Our lawyer was related to us. But he demanded 50 rs as fees. He refused to give the file without this payment. So far he had never asked for any money. He was not at fault. I gave him 40 Rs. From our village to Tehsil and back—transport used to cost 10 Rs. Fifty rupees were already spent. I was left with just ten Rs for making the appeal. Stamps and typing alone would require 40 to 50 Rs. I could not think of anything. Some people from our village knew another lawyer. I went to him. He told me that at least 40/50 Rs would be required if a case has to be filed. I began crying, I had just ten Rs and if I did not appeal in time, Dada would be in deep trouble. I was in 11th standard, I knew nothing about court matters. Finally the lawyer had pity on me and agreed to file case. I gave him the ten Rs that remained with me and we filed a case. That day I came to know how important was the income of 60 Rs received by thrashing Ambadi and suffering thorn pricks.

I decided to meet my stepmother and Mala to put a stop to this dispute. It was decided to pay her 3000 Rs and settle the dispute. But my Ajoba's political enemies raised their head. They had instigated my stepmother to start this dispute. When the matter went to court, they raised the amount to Rs 3500; 4000; 4500; 5000 and finally to 6000 in addition to Rs 50 per month for maintenance. I was still saying Yes, yes to their demands. Finally the amount was agreed, but wherefrom was I going to get the money? My sister Mala was due for her wedding. I was under great pressure. We fixed my sister's marriage too. It was decided to pay dowry of Rs 4000. Wedding was to be conducted at her in-laws' place. I decided that I would marry a girl whose parent would help me with 10000 Rs. I gave 6000 Rs. to my step mother. I settled the dispute, they deducted 1000 Rs. for transportation of the wedding party. I remained with Rs. 4000 for my sister's marriage. I gave 3000 Rs. to them and made a settlement by promising to give 1000 Rs. after the turmeric crop was sold. At the wedding, my brother in law refused to come to the pandal. Somebody told him "Do become adamant so that you will get remaining 1000 Rs." I leant of this rumour. I went to him and reminded him that immediate payment was not possible but he kept quiet. I became very angry. I told my sister, "the wedding has not taken place as yet. Rub off the Haldi, let us cancel the wedding" But some people intervened and the wedding did take place. I had so many strange experiences in my life like this.

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CHAPTER 05**EDUCATION**

I began my education in the ‘Zilla Parishad Primary School’ at my village. It was a very good school. In our times, teachers were very highly respected. All the teachers taught very sincerely. In third standard, we had a teacher called Katre who used to harshly beat students. He never used his cane on our open palms but always on the back of the hand and moreover he used to ask us to bring the cane. But, it is a fact that we remember all the poems he taught even now. Karde Guruji taught us mathematics in the 7th standard. When he walked on the road, students used to run away from there and hide somewhere. But he loved his studious pupils a lot. Times have changed now. Now we have laws like ‘RTE’ in the country. Students are not to be scolded, not to be beaten, not to be insulted, never to be failed and strangely teachers still have to mould them. The result of all this is that students of even 7th standard are not able to write their own name properly.

We were very much short of teachers when we were in 6th and 7th standards. As there were hardly any teachers, we students allotted different subjects to ourselves and we used to teach on our own. I still remember my class of 7th standard. We were 7 students in the class out of which 3 were my cousin sisters, 3 cousin brothers and the 7th one used to come to school from the neighbouring village. His attendance was very irregular, sometimes he never showed for weeks together. Six of us distributed school subjects among ourselves, each one took up the subject he liked. We used to study first and then teach others. My primary education up to 7th standard was completed in this manner.

When we were in 7th standard, the School Inspector visited the school and he saw only seven students. He exclaimed,” Oh, this 7th class has just 7 students, not six nor eight !

There was no 8th standard in our village. There was a high school in the neighbouring village called Terkheda. It was 5 to 6 km away from our place. We had

to walk that distance in hot sunshine, rain or gusty winds. Ganesh Vidyalay, Terkheda was a very good school, a highly reputed school in the district. The teaching staff there was very nice and very disciplined. Every teacher was a master of his subject and the Principal Tripathi Sir was very strict and a great disciplinarian. It was really an ideal school. I studied in Ganesh Vidyalay up to the tenth standard and I took further education at Barshi, District Solapur.

Barshi is known as the God's place. Barshi is quite famous in Maharashtra. There are eight very large Mahadeo temples in this town. This town is known for education, trade and medical care. I took admission to Jhadburke College in 11th standard. I opted for Science faculty. Coming from a farmer family, there was no one to guide us which stream to go to. Every one began giving me advice and confused me. One of my cousins, H.R. was in an Arts college. He told me,; Take admission to Arts stream. You like Mathematics, you may take Mathematics for M.A. You can do so. He used to show me a Professor's name plate with M.A (M.Phil Mathematics). Admission was not a problem in those days. In the first three months, one could get admission to any stream : Arts, Science or Commerce. I began to sit in an Arts class. Another cousin of mine Raju was doing his B. Com. Once he came to my room and asked what I was doing there. I told him I was sitting in Arts class. He advised me that I should at least go to Commerce if not Science. Then I decided to go to Commerce. College classes had begun already and two months had passed. It was an Accounting class and Professor Mansule was teaching. He saw me and recognized a new face immediately. He made me stand up. He told me that a substantial portion was already taught in the class and I could not now pursue Commerce stream. He drove me out of the class. I felt very bad. But I decided in my mind to go for Commerce only. There was another Professor from a nearby village; I met him and explained to him my problem. He told me to come to Staff Room during recess time, so that he could persuade the other teacher. He convinced the Commerce professor in his words and I was permitted to sit in his class. Professor Mansule had told me that I would fail in Accountancy. I studied day and night, I really mugged up the Accountancy subject. In those days, I got 80 marks out of 100 in 12th standard and I went to see him with my mark sheet.

Jhadburke College did not have B. Com facility. Therefore, Karmaveer Mamasahab Jagdale, disciple of Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil founded the Shivaji Educationn Society and the B.P. Sulakhe College. I took admission to this college. All other students with me stayed in Subhashnagar as the college was near from there. But I was alone and was had to walk 5 km to college. I began walking to college at 7-30 am every day without eating anything. On my return I had to cook myself and eat lunch. I did some exercises

in the evening and went to get Bhagavant's Darshan later. After coming back, I cooked for myself again and eat alone. That's how life went on for some time. I had just one dress made of Vadvani Terrycot. I used to wash it every Sunday and press it with a Copper Bowl filled with hot coal. That was the daily routine until I completed my education.

There was another story before this time. When I was in 9th/10th standard, I used to gather a number of friends together and we used to take part in various plays. Once I went home for lunch during the recess. My father was at home. He was such a quiet person, he would not hurt anyone. He asked me half smilingly, 'Look, Shiva, the town leader is telling me "Your son is not going to study any more. He is just collecting a lot of friends together and doing sundry things. You can't be sure of him now. He will either become a political leader or maybe he will become a goon. "I could see why my father was worried. He was worried for my future. I ate whatever was served in the plate and went straight to the Chavdi. That leader was sitting there. I told him, "I am going to study so much that all your children and your brother's children will never study in their whole life." From that day, I have been studying continuously up to 50 years of age, just because of that sentence. One of his sons did B.Com. L.L.B; I did M.Com L.L.M. Another son was a B.A. I did M.A. One more son was B.Ed. I did Ph.D. With just sheer determination I continued to pursue M.Com.; M.A.; L.L.M; M.P.M; D.T.L; D.L.; L L W; G.D.C.A and Ph.D right up to the age of fifty. This persevering nature and commitment of mine helped me greatly in my later life.

When I was in 11th standard, I met a Maharaj from Yedshi. When Swami Agnivesh was on a tour of Marathwada, his speech, knowledge and thoughts had a profound effect on 8/10 boys in our area and they left with him to his Ashram in the Himalayas. This Maharaj had done his penance in that Asharm and came back. He had his own Gurukul Ashram at Yedshi a place in the Ramaling Hills. I used to spend months together in that Ashram during Diwali and Summer holidays. The Ashram was run like a Gurukul. Pupils had to wake up at 4 AM., perform Yoga, Bath and Sandhya rituals. They had to milk cows ant sunrise, drink fresh milk, have a bath with cold water, perform all duties assigned every day and study according to the prescribed programme. That was the daily routine. Salt was prohibited in the Ashram. Maharaj used to tell us many stories. : Do exercise regularly, try to enhance your knowledge and always act righteously. I was impressed with his thoughts right since my 11th standard. I was in 12th standard in 1980. I invited Maharaj to our native place Vadji during the Diwali vacation. We used to discuss many subjects and one of the topics was: Should Non-vegetarian food really be a part of human diet? Two hours passed

and we were still debating. Maharaj was saying 'Non Vegetarian food cannot be a part of human diet. All town people were arguing: Non Vegetarian food is certainly a part of human diet. Finally, Maharaj alone was on one side and the entire village on the opposite side. If the village lost, 40 young boys of our group who were non-vegetarians would shun non-veg food and become vegetarians and if Maharaj lost, he would sit at the entrance of the village and eat non-veg food. The debate went on for three days. Maharaj cited evidence right from Vedas to recent opinions given by modern German, American experts and doctors. He said, 'Let me give you some examples. From external appearance man looks to be non-vegetarian. But he gave examples of how a cow drinks water, how a dog drinks water and how man drinks water. Vegetarian animals suck water inside while violent beasts use their tongue and lick water. A tiger's intestines are short, a cow's intestines are long so are human intestines. The teeth of vegetarian and non-vegetarian animals have a different pattern. Thus human beings have a more vegetarian – looking structure. Maharaj gave a number of examples and finally he won the debate after three days.

Now the 40 young boys in our group had to give up non-vegetarian food. We performed a great Yajna in the village and those 40 young boys vowed to become vegetarian. But a number of villagers were purposely inviting these boys to eat eggs, fish and meat, Slowly 39 out of the 40 boys began to eat non-veg food again within six months and I remained the sole vegetarian from that group, even up to this day! For the last 40 years, I have been vegetarian.

I became a disciple of 'Maharaj'. After my examinations, I decided to go to Himalayas with Maharaj during summer vacation. Only my cousin H.R. (Dr. Hanuman Rambhau Jadhav) knew of this decision. I was fully ready for the journey. It was agreed between us fully that I would leave for Himalayas with Maharaj and become a permanent Sanyasi. But perhaps Destiny did not agree with this. Maybe, the Almighty had a number of activities planned for me in future in the education field. Mean while there was an incident in the family. My paternal grandfather and H.R.'s grandfather Hariba Jadhav died of old age. We heard of the news, we hired two bicycles and came to the village. There was heavy untimely rain that day in summer. The road from our village through Danda was very bad for about 4 kms. Our bicycles were getting stuck in the mud. We lifted them on our shoulders and came to the village. We stayed back for his final rituals. As decided earlier, Maharaj came to our place to pick me up and go to the Himalayas. He saw a lock on my room, he waited for 4 hours. He thought, I was a deserter and he left by the evening train. All this was destiny's doing.

My college life was quite difficult. I was going to another place called Barshi. When it was my time to leave, my sister in law went away on the pretext of bringing me a bed sheet and a small rug. But she never returned until I left. She was not at fault either. She and her husband had just one bed sheet and rug between them so, how could they give me anything? But I had just one sister in law. Anna's first wife gave me a bed sheet and she used to take a dhoti for herself. The house was in bad shape and this was the state of affairs. Later she had an untimely death. I could not return her debt ever since.

There is another important matter I must mention here. I was staying as a tenant at Prof. Ganachary's house at Barshi. We never paid him any rent for Diwali and summer vacation periods. His wife was very disciplined but she had a very soft and loving nature. When we complained, 'Sir, this year there was no rain, no crop. How can we pay the rent for the vacation period?' He used to keep quiet on this. We stayed with Sir Ganacharya for at least 7 years. The help that he rendered was just invaluable. It is my earnest duty here to mention the same with gratitude.

I was in a very poor financial state while I was a college student at Barshi. In those days, I never ate any vegetables or food with edible oil for three full years. I was not getting a single rupee from anywhere. At home, things were pretty bad. Because of the dispute with my step mother and the partition in the village, our financial position was disastrous. I remember that in order to save 40 paise for bus fare, many times I would walk to Karegaon instead of going through Koregaon, with a heavy bag of Jowar on my head and a very rough suitcase in my hand. Even today no one dares to go through Devdara in the afternoon. But I survived the ordeal in this situation. I had a classmate called Kale from Vanjarwadi. He used to do whatever I did. He wanted to become like me. His financial position was far better than mine. He decided to join me in my room and told me that we would cook together. On the very first day, I went double seat with him to the market on his 24inch bicycle. We bought a quarter kg of edible oil. They used to have glass bottles for oil at that time. With great joy we bought the oil and were returning to the village on the tall bicycle. On the way, his bike skidded at a turn. He could not balance it as the bicycle was rather tall and both of us fell down on the tar road. The glass bottle broke and we could not even enjoy the hard earned edible oil.

While returning from Bhagvant, all of us returned home at 7 pm, cooked food, ate dinner and used to come to the study room. I never ate along with others because they served me vegetables. I never liked them every day, so I used to go straight to the study room at 7 pm. When all my classmates came to the study room, I used to start

for home. I used to eat Hybrid Bhakri with dry chutney alone. I studied so much but I never stayed awake beyond 10 pm. But I used to get up at 4 am, I used to study in early morning hours and that habit remained with me ever since.

We had a send-off function for the B.Com class in our B. P. Sulakhe College. I gave a speech there; we had a Professor C.A Laddha at that time, he said in his speech that this boy would become a famous person in future. When I took admission for the M.Com course at Solapur, I had really wanted to become a C.A. I took admission in Pune. Because of my poor financial position, I used to eat a packet of biscuits every day to survive. I came back just after fifteen days and took admission for M.Com. We had a professor for Economics from whom I was inspired to learn teaching skills and his ways of thinking. I decided at that time that I should become a Professor or a Leader in future. I passed M.Com. from my college at Barshi. Our Principal Ingle Sir appointed me as a professor in B. P. Sulakhe Commerce College in 1985. He said to me, 'Sudhakar, I am now accepting you here, but our Secretary Mr. Bhosle is in America on a tour and he will interview you on his return.; I said to him, 'Sir, I am your student. If I fail in that interview, I will never come back to you for a job.' I had a good interview. Bhosle Saheb sat in my class while I was teaching. I had an excellent interview and I taught there as a Professor for about a year.

My cousin brother H.R. was studying in Pune at that time. He thought that I should come to Pune for education, but I could not do so because of financial difficulties. He saw an advertisement and applied for that job in my name. I came to Pune for an interview. In fact, I got down in Pune while coming from Bombay. My interview was scheduled at 11 am but it was 4 pm when I arrived. But interviews for Commerce positions were kept at the very end by the Secretary, so I could manage to give the interview. My interview went off very well and I thought at that moment that I would get selected and I would certainly become a Professor. However, I did not want to leave Barshi. In this world, you are valued not because of your merit but because of recommendations. That post was given to my classmate Mr. Patil. I was not refused however. I got an order for appointment, but I did not want to go to Pune. Everyone was advising me, "You got a job as a Professor. You should go." Finally, I went to Principal Ingle and showed him the appointment order. He said, "Wow, in fact, I to wanted to go to Pune. You should immediately go to Pune." My friends including Tarachand were insisting on me to go to Pune. Very reluctantly, I decided to go to Pune as a Professor on 19th June 1986.



CHAPTER 06

DRAMATICS

Our village has a tradition of plays and dramas. For the last 100 years, plays including musical drama are being enacted in our place. My grandfather too acted in musical plays like “Bhavan Sudari”. During every holiday we used to go to the village and entertain ourselves with different plays. I was in the sixth standard. Once, my older brother and his friends organized a play “Sakkhe Bhau, Pakke Vairi” in our village. No girl was willing to play a female role in the play because in those days, ladies did not play female roles in dramatics. Any fair looking boy would be made to act as a female. I was in the Primary School. When I was asked, I agreed to take that role. It was a very nice play, showing realities of life. It became quite famous in local rural areas. We had many shows in our village too.

Later, I went to eighth standard. I went to nearby Terkheda town for high school. Every year they had a play in there. I was again asked to play a female role by some older boys and friends of my elder brother. I was getting mature by now. I felt that I should accept a male role and I told them that I wanted a male role. As most of them were my brother’s friends, they insulted me and drove me away. They said, if I wanted to act at all, I would get a female role otherwise I had no other role. I felt very bad. Once again my gritty nature was challenged. I gathered a group of small children and organized a three act play in which I played a Dacoit. The play was called ‘Paisa nahi mag jagata kashala?’ I remember that later a Marathi movie was also made based on the same play. We small children brought this play to the stage earlier than the gang of bigger boys. In that play the female role was played by Ashok Morale, who is now Additional Commissioner Crime Branch Pune.

My cousin brother Ravindra was given the role of a DIG and I was a dacoit. There was a scene where the dacoit is shot dead by the DIG. He was supposed to fire a bullet but in the actual show, he was not ready to fire the bullet at all. We were really embarrassed. Finally, I charged towards him and then he fired the bullet. Whatever

happened, all he had learnt by heart was “Khasha khasha huij khaasa”. He said these words and there was a big roar of laughter. It was great fun.

Later we stages another play “Gav sadha va pudhari shodh”. It had nice depiction of rural life. There were interesting characters like Timke Guruji and some other funny characters.

When I was in tenth standard in Ganesh Vidyalay, there was a tradition to stage a new play every year during the Ganesh Festival. Ganesh Festival was nearing and we started preparations for the play. We decided on a very well-known play “Vahto hi durvanchi judi.” As our teachers were directing the play, there was a little problem- who will play the female role? Girls in rural areas were not ready to act in plays. Therefore they began looking for fair boys again. 90% boys were not ready to play a female role. Asking students in every class, teachers came finally to my class and asked three/four boys. Everyone refused. Finally I got up and said,” I will play a female role as I have done such roles before.” My role was now finally defined in the play. I was given a copy of the book. At that time there used to be only one book for the group; everyone would write down his sentences and return the book. I received the book on Saturday. There was no electricity in the village at that time. We used to practice in the light of a kerosene lamp. Me and my friend Datta who became a textile engineer and worked in a textile mill later were acting together. We began copying from the book at around 7 pm and completed writing all 104 pages by hand by early morning. I got up in the morning that Sunday. There was a babhul tree in our sugarcane field. I sat in its shade and sitting there from morning to the evening I learnt by heart all my role from the 104 pages of the play. I practiced and perfected my recitation from my cousin Manik. We used to be quite tense while acting in a teacher’s play so we had to practice a lot. All the teachers were reading out their roles but I was saying all dialogues without a book though I was just a student. My school and village were about 5-6 kms apart. Therefore I was staying there only during rehearsal days. I used to eat at a teacher’s house every day. I acted as Tai (elder sister) in that play. It was a very important role and it became so famous that people in the area remembered my role even after 25 years.

I myself brought together a bunch of small children and organized a very nice team. That lay the foundation of a group called “Krantiveer Gram Vikas Yuvak Mandal, Vadji.”



CHAPTER 07

KRANTIVEER

On the pretext of rehearsals of plays, many of us small children used to gather together. That gave rise to “Krantiveer Gram Vikas Yuvak Mandal.” This group worked very actively for at least 20 to 25 years. Its main activities included keeping students and young people away from bad habits and bringing discipline in their lives. We began this Mandal’s activities with a small library. We collected 101 books from people in town, we brought an old wooden box from somewhere, kept these books in a vertical order and started the library. This was around 1976-77. We found a small corner in the tin shed of the Chavdi of the village and children from our groups used to clean it and wash it regularly. These children did everything that was required. We used to have daily meeting in the library, we pondered over several issues and decided on our further course of action. Coincidentally our Gram Panchayat was dismissed around that time and that was an advantage for our Mandal. The boys had so much affection for each other and had so much discipline that just a whistle was enough to call fifty boys to the library. Once Dnyanoba Savkar and some others from the village commenced a recitation programme of Ramayan without consulting anyone. At the end of every chapter or ‘Kand’ they should have organized food donation, but instead they distributed just puffed corn. The final day or day of ‘Shakti’ arrived but no one came forward to work and prepare ‘Kheer; as Prasad. Whenever Savkar called out a name, people just disappeared from there. All the people were greatly disappointed. It appeared that distribution of ‘Mahaprasad’ would not be possible. Savkar was in great pain. What to do? He called me and said,” It’s the question of our town’s honour. Do anything but let us fulfill this mission. “I called all my friends, it was getting dark. Some boys fetched water, we cooked Mahaprasad and distributed it in the village the next morning. I had never seen such unity before.

Whether it was a wedding or a religious celebration, our boys used perform all kinds of jobs sincerely right from fetching water from far and serving all guests

without expecting anything. During those days of Krantiveer, all disputes in the village were sorted out by us through Krantiveer except some long standing disputes about farmlands. When there were property divisions in families, they were decided upon with our mediation. I was the very active founder and President of this Mandal for 25 years.

For many years, our Mandal used to organize a Youth Camp every year under the aegis of District Sports Authorities. Krantiveer Mandal did a commendable job by promoting constructive thinking among youth all these years. Once I decided to invite former Central Minister and Minister of State Hon, Babanrao Dhakne to our Vadji village. In order to invite him for this youth camp, I went to Mumbai. I approached him and finalized the programme. He agreed to visit our place. I was very happy. When I went to him in the afternoon, he spoke of his difficulty. He was in the Janata Party then and he had a Party meeting in Delhi. I felt very sad as I had told everyone that the Minister was going to come to Vadji. I really pleaded with him and said to him, "Now please request someone else to come. I have loudly announced this programme everywhere and if you do not come, I will lose my face." He too had gone through all these stages in his childhood. He understood my problem. At that time Panditrao Daund was a Minister in the State and he sent me to him. As Hon Minister Dhakne Saheb had requested, Shri Daund agreed to come. I drafted the full programme and sent it to Osmanabad to the District Collector. I was greatly relieved. I was happy now because, being just a college student, I could bring a Minister to a programme of the Mandal. I left Mumbai for Vadji at night. Next day, I reached Terkheda bus station at around noon. I was happily telling everyone that a Minister was going to come to our village. People were really surprised because in nearly 100 villages nearby, no one had invited a Minister for a programme and how come this boy is doing a miracle. Around that time, I met Tarachand Morale, a new group member. With great enthusiasm and joy on my face, I gave him the news just as I got down from the bus. But he dropped the first bomb shell. He said, "Hey, will any Minister ever come to a village? "The first negation came from one of our own members. I was depressed. I had been working hard for days together spending my own money. Instead of encouraging me, these people are following ways of Shaliya Mama! This is very sad. But I never lost my courage. Finally the D day arrived. The Minister came to our place with all his entourage and spent three hours in our village. It was an excellent programme. Initially half the people were ridiculing us, they were saying that a Minister would never step here. But now all of them were very happy and congratulating me.

Many earlier leaders tried to bring bus service to our Vadji village. They

collected a lot of contribution from people but no one had been successful so far. I was determined not to take any money from any one. No contributions, yet, buses must come to our place. Our village was in a corner and was surrounded by hills on three sides. If we had to go to another town we could not get a bus within 4-5 kms at least. I was quite uninformed at that time. Just as someone would go with packed food to bring an outstation son or daughter, I packed my food at Solapur, I wrote a letter on our Mandal's letterhead and reached Solapur. I got down at the bus station. Depot Manager Mr. Jagtap's office was close to the bus stand. I went and sat outside his office. I did not send in my letter. Nothing happened. I thought that they would call me as I was sitting at the door. One full day went just like this. Nobody called me. I went to the bus station in the evening and slept there. Next day I went and sat on a bench at the Depot Manager's door for the whole day. Nobody paid any attention. After second and third day, Saheb enquired, : Look, there is a boy sitting outside every day. Who is he? What does he want? Whom does he want to meet? "Then, he called me. I was happy. Four days had passed by then. I went inside and put out the letter on our Mandal's letterhead in front of him. I had explained difficulties faced by our villagers, their struggle to reach the market at Barshi. A number of children are studying at Barshi. We should have a bus so that they can get their tiffins. He read the letter and asked if I had brought any recommendation letter from an MLA. Perhaps with some Divine wisdom I said," Sir, You are from the Army and I know Army men give more importance to the true facts than recommendations. Therefore I have placed the truth before you and did not ask for any body's recommendation. "Jagtap Saheb's face brightened up, he looked very happy. Within one hour he put me on to a Survey bus for Vadji. The village got a bus service. Everyone was happy. Within a few days buses would begin to ply to Wadji every day. But people from neighbouring Kadaknath Wadi began to protest. They complained why does such a small village with little population need a bus? But Jagtap Saheb was quite determined. He finalized the bus route and ticket fare and commenced the bus service. The first bus on the first day was to arrive shortly. My financial position was not so good. I stole 6 kg of Haldi powder from my home and gave it to Janardan Morale. I told him to buy two caps and two towels. There was a music band in the village and they agreed to play music for free. The bus came, the entire village was present and all of us took out a procession. Everyone was applauding the event. We took out a grand procession with the driver and conductor of the bus. That was one more feather in the cap of Krantiveer Mandal.

It was the same story about bringing electricity to the town. Our village was without electricity. Around that time Indira Gandhi was assassinated and election campaigns

were in full swing. But all of us took a decision and boycotted the election. Within a few days, we got electricity in the village. Again, another bus route was commissioned from Kalamb Tehsil. Krantiveer was bringing improvements to the village one after another. People's outlook towards the Mandal was changing. Everyone felt that these boys are doing constructive work.

While Krantiveer was expanding its activities, there was opposition from some quarters as well. Some people who opposed were Sar Panch Daivan Morale. Vaijinath Morale and Shivaji Morale. They were very strong at that time. Looking at the good work we were doing, Babusrao Morale Mama began working with us and encouraged us in every activity. Maruti Nana Patil was always mixing with our group along with his sons Raju and Ravindra. In the evening we used to visit their stables and sleep in their farms by the stream. Sahebrao Patil had become very weak financially and physically. He used to tell us many stories. We had such famous personalities at Vadji like Rambhau Mama, Sahebrao Patil and Maruti Nana. You invite them for any programme and they would give a nice speech on any topic. Whenever you meet Rambhau Mama and bring up any subject, he would keep chatting until you get exhausted. Such were the personalities around us under whose guidance we were being brought up.

All of us need to build our physical strength and that is why the village used to have Urus by Malik Saheb every year. Mostly Hindus were celebrating this festival. Our Mandal used to organize a wrestling competition during this Urus. Our Mandal was now making its presence felt in the village. If any primary teacher came late to school and if he saw a member of our Mandal approaching nearer, he would immediately apply for half day leave or would run away from the scene. Upset over this, a spiteful Ghule Guruji from our neighbouring village failed my younger brother Madhavrao in the sixth standard. I took 8/10 boys with me and went to the education officer at Usmanabad. We told him to raid that primary school and ask them to reexamine the papers. In those days, people could meet officers only at 4 pm. We were blocked by a school attendant. I told my boys, 'Pick this man up and take him out on the road. Meanwhile, I will see the officer.' My boys did what was required. I met the female Education Officer. She acted on my plea immediately. When she saw that students were wrongly failed when they had actually passed, she transferred that teacher outside the Tehsil.

Around the same time, the Sar Panch threw a chicken party with liquor for teachers at the school. He told a student to bring a chicken from home. I requested MLA Babanrao Dhakne to raise this question in the Assembly and made sure that the



During the 4th Youth Parliament programme (from left) Shiv Sena deputy leader Sushma Tai Andhare, Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Dr. Neelamtai Gorhe, Former Minister Eknathrao Khadse, Member of Maharashtra Vidhan Parishad K.A. Vinayakrao Mete.



During the 4th Youth Parliament programme (From left) former minister Yashomati Thakur (Adarsh MLA), Dr. Kumar Saptarshi, Mr. Laxman Rao Pawar (Adarsh MLA)



During the 4th Youth Parliament program (from left) A. Sangram Thope (Adarsh MLA), Dr. Kumar Saptarshi, Former Health Minister Vijayakumar Gavit, Mr. Dr. Hina Gavit (Adarsh Youth MP),



during the 4th Youth Parliament program (from left) Major General Dilawar Singh, former minister Sadabhau Khot, Maratha Morcha president Sureshdada Patil



During the 4th Youth Parliament programme (From left) A. Bachchu Kadu (Adarsh MLA), Senior Journalist Nikhil Wagle, Senior Journalist Ravindra Ambekar



With Hon. Chief Minister
Devendra Fadnavis



With Hon. Chandrakantada Patil.



Senior artist Sunil Godbole during
the cultural festival



Senior artist Madhav Abhyankar during
the cultural festival



Along with Padma Vibhushan
Shri. Raghunath Mashelkar



Along with Padma Vibhushan
Shri. Vijay Bhatkar



On the occasion of awarding the Adarsh Mata Award (from left) Ratnatai Ramchandra Khot (Adarsh Mata) and former Union Minister Suryakanta Patil, Hon. Musician Thombre, Hon. Mrs. Urmila Vishwanath Karad (The Ideal Mother)



During the 4th Youth Parliament program (from left) former minister Mahadevrao Jankar (model minister), Additional Commissioner of Police (Crime) Ashok Morale



During the 4th Youth Parliament program (from left) A. Sangram Thope (Adarsh MLA), Dr. Kumar Saptarshi, Former Health Minister Mr. Vijayakumar Gavit, Dr. Hina Gavit (Adarsh Youth MP),



during the Youth Parliament programme (From left) former MLA Kapil Patil (Adarsh MLA), Chief Minister of Goa Hon. Pramod Sawant, Former Minister Sadabhau Khot



During the 4th Youth Parliament program (from left) A. Sangram Thope (Adarsh MLA), Dr. Kumar Saptarshi, Former Health Minister Mr. Vijayakumar Gavit, Dr. Hina Gavit (Adarsh Youth MP)



Adarsh Yuva Award given by Solapur District Development Foundation
Adv. Awarded to Shardul Jadwar.



Under the cleanliness campaign (from left) Minister Vijay Shrivare (model minister), former minister Eknathrao Khadse, Member of Maharashtra Legislative Council Vinayakrao Mete.



Additional Commissioner of Police Pune City under the initiative 'Daru Soda, Dudh Pya' on the night of December 31 While distributing milk to the youth by Mr. Ashok Morale.



At the 22nd anniversary celebrations (from left) N.C. Joshi, former minister Eknathrao Khadse, JDU spokesperson K. C. Tyagi, Sudarshan TV's Suresh Chavanke, Mr. Bhimrao Anna Tapkir,



With former Governor and MP Srinivas Patil on the occasion of awarding Adarsh Mata Award.



While felicitating the student who got the first job in the first employment fair.

wrong-doer was punished adequately.

There was a sad incident during the tenure of the Mandal. 30 young people from our group were to join a SFI rally at Nagpur. All the programme was finalized. But just when we were supposed to leave for Nagpur, I got a job as a Professor at Barshi. The Principal refused to sanction me leave so early in the service period. I thought that I should leave the job and go to Nagpur. But all the other boys opposed me and told me to stay on with the job. When the train to Nagpur halted at the Murtijapur station, someone threw a banana peel to a goat standing on the platform. Some banana peel fell on the track and the goat got down. The train passed over the goat. A Muslim member from our Mandal named Vazir bent down to see what was happening. But the train picked up speed, he hit a water pole on the platform and fell down. Our boys pulled the chain and took him to a hospital. But his life could not be saved. I helped his mother like a son as my sacred duty and helped the family financially during the marriage of both his sisters. I helped provide medical care to his mother later on and every year gave her a Sari very respectfully. I am never able to erase this incident from my memory.

I did so many constructive jobs in my village 40 years ago which Prime Minister Modi is doing today: Cleaning up the village, provision of water, electricity, bus, business facilities, inculcating good thinking among children, a society free from addiction and disputes and so on. I managed all these social activities through Krantiveer Gram Vikas Mandal and I am very proud of it.



CHAPTER 08

MANDIR AND MY FRIENDS

For many years, leaders and influential people in our village were trying to build a temple in our place. Many times, they took out contributions but did not succeed. For nearly 50 years the village was looking for a good soul to build a temple. Finally the villagers held a meeting and invited me there. A number of our Krantiveer boys were present there too. The town people were really on the lookout for an honest and genuine person. The villagers decided unanimously that that I should head the Mandir Committee. They were all united in this decision. This was a real challenge like Shiv Dhanushya. The overall situation in the village was such that a simple thing like contributions was difficult to come by. Many times the contribution fell in the hands of unscrupulous people and the money vanished. Therefore people were unwilling to shell out contributions. But in this sad situation, the responsibility of the Mandir was assigned to me. I was not earning that time; I came from a poor background, financial position of my family was miserable and I was given the responsibility to build a temple. I did not have any credentials to say anything on the topic but I rose and began to say, 'If the temple cannot be built with the villager's might and money, I myself will build a temple with my money and conviction.' These words slipped out of my mouth but how can you make a pretence of money? I had to build the temple now. I told everyone to give any contribution to Namdev Guruji but no money was forthcoming. Nearly ten years went away like this. I got a job in Pune and began my own Income Tax practice. My father-in-law Shri Navnath Morale encouraged me. He took the initiative and took a lot of trouble for me. Every fortnight/month I use to send home whatever money I earned through my practice to my father-in-law. With my savings and with some borrowed money, the temple was getting built slowly over nearly 5 years. It was not easy to demolish the old Chavdi and temple in the village and build a new temple. Despite so much opposition in the village, building a temple was possible only because of the very determined nature of Navnath Guruji. Thus,

my vow to build the shrine was fulfilled.

Many people helped me in making the temple. Hanumant Jadhvar, Subhash Morale and his brother Nagargoje, a contractor for the village dam gave some contribution in addition to nearly 15 lakh Rs saved by me slowly during the period 1990 to 1995. With this money, the temple was completed. This was all because of the Almighty's blessings.

During the 'Krantiveer' period, I was blessed with the company of my brothers, my cousins and several friends. They had their plus and minus points but they had a profound effect on my life. An important friend and my cousin Raju Jadhavar was the Secretary of our Mandal. He used to carry out all assignments given to him very sincerely. We were together for nearly 50 years. This has been a cornerstone of my life. It was only because of him that I went to Commerce faculty and become stable in my life as of now.

Dilip Morale was the Principal of the high school in the village and he used to run the 'Krantiveer library'. Without paying any attention to politics, he would keep to himself and his work, He is the son of Kisanrao Patil who was very religious and used to recite religious books very regularly. He was my father's friend. Patil's tea was famous in the entire locality.

Ravindra was Raju's brother, he did M. Sc. in Micro Biology in those days. This subject was not very popular and he did not get much scope in that field later on. He had to accept a job in a Junior College at Akluj in the Dairy Science department. When I was young, I had arranged just one marriage; Ravindra's marriage. The Bridegroom arrived late for the marriage. There were no mobile phones that time. Everyone began blaming me. Finally the wedding took place that day. But since that time I have been very wary about arranging any wedding.

Ashok Morale was the celebrated son of the soil from our village. He became Additional Commissioner of Police Crime Branch in Pune. Right from the beginning he was known to be a very sharp, promising, capable boy with great passion for the Truth. He passed examinations for Police Inspectors, for co-operative department posts, Agricultural Officer posts and DSP positions too. He was very modest, was never boastful, he had no false pride in his position. In our schooldays we had enacted a play in which he had played a female role too. When Rajeev Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he had initiated a Youth Festival. Ashok took part in that festival with great enthusiasm. There were many rumours about Krantiveer Mandal, but he had the courage to tell the truth to his father.

Another son of the soil was Subhash Morale. This friend of ours became Joint Commissioner of Sales Tax, He had lived through utter poverty. He knew he troubles his mother took to bring him up, she worked very hard for him. She used to pick vegetables from the fields; she used to lift heavy bags of vegetables and put them on top of the bus in the absence of any coolies; she used to carry these vegetables to the market, sold them and collected small bits of money to educate her son. Fortunate are those who have such a mother and our Sayba was such a lucky child. He was a simple straight forward soul, did not have any misgivings about anyone. He was very hardworking and used to tie a knot in his hair to remind him of keeping awake for studies during late night hours. Such was the great son of the Vadji soil

Tarachand Morale was another well wisher friend of mine who used to give many useful suggestions, one who was the first one to insist that I should go to Pune. He worked very closely with us but he had a bitter tongue, he was very abrupt, he never cared what others would feel. Often he used to spread rumors which would create a suspicious atmosphere in Krantiveer Mandal. But he was never selfish and had great affection for all of us, I should mention many such friends like Popat Morale, Achyut Morale and so on. But it would be appropriate to name only a few friends so that this life story does not get too long.

Most importantly I must mention my cousin, my Guru and friend Principal Hanumant Morale who brought me into the mainstream of the society. He taught me a lot more in life than a Guru would do. He was with me in times of happiness and sorrow. Since I began to understand life, we have been together for 55 years. That is my best friend indeed. H. R. is the only witness to all the events in my life because of whom I had come to Pune. H.R. means Hanumant Rambhau. I still remember one incident. I was in ninth standard and my mother had just expired. This was around 1975, about one year after my mother's demise. The house was filled with her memories. We were very weak financially and I had just 12 Rs with me while H.R. had 13 Rs. We went to Pandharpur. We went there to immerse her ashes in the river but the Brahmins and fishermen there were not ready to perform any rituals without money. They drove us out as we had no money. We pretended to walk towards the Bus Station. The Railway bridge at Pandharpur is quite long. We walked one or two kms along the river. Both of us got into the river. I told him to look around and quickly I immersed the ashes in the river. I ran away from there so that nobody could see me. Because of this social system, I could not even immerse my mother's ashes in the Chandrabhaga river. I was very sad and tears began to flow from my eyes. At that time H.R. gave me moral support. He

was extremely attached to his parents, he had great love for his brothers and sisters and he was a devoted patriot. He used to imitate Manojkumar, dress like him and recite poems from his films. His Mama Kisanrao Patil was very religious, he used to recite religious books every day. He never touched a bone in his diet. Right from school days, he used to tell us meanings of religious scriptures. There will never be a friend like him who would give us lessons in how to lead ideal life.

Right from its inception until the school was given a grant, I used to run Vasantrao Naik School. He was the Chairman of the school. My name was never on the governing body of the school but I never regretted it. One of the reasons that I started many educational institutes in Pune is that my name did not figure in the school at our village. That was the trigger for me to think upon beginning an organization like this. But nowadays, he appears to have changed somewhat. I experience a sense in him like a complete man who has no desires left in routine family life.

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CHAPTER 09

STEPPING INTO PUNE

I still remember that day vividly; 19th June 1986. I gave an interview at the 'Jedhe Arts and Commerce College' run by 'Shivaji Maratha Institute, from Pune'. The interview had gone off very well and I was sure that I would 100% get this Professor's job with my intellectual ability. The college was to open on 20th June. I had decided to arrive in Pune one day earlier and join College the next day. I was worried because I came from a poor background, standard of living in Pune was quite high, I did not have a bicycle, I did not have a place to live, how will it go? But I had tremendous belief in myself. I left Vadji in the morning for Pune via Barshi. Until I had a place to stay, I took Prabhakar Mundhe, a friend of mine from our Mandal with me, because his father-in-law was working as a watchman at a bungalow in 'Abhimanshri Society'. The owner of the bungalow was living in the US. I assumed that I could spend a couple of days at his house and we went to him. With the hope that I would find a suitable place later on, I took my friend with me and came to Pune. I had bought a low cost suitcase at Barshi and it was not of a good quality. While getting down among the crowd, its handle broke and it fell down, I took out the suitcase somehow in that crowd. We enquired with several people on the way and found out the location of 'Abhimanshri Society'. We found the bungalow but to our shock, my friend's father-in-law had quit the bungalow just three days back. We asked for his new address. But the man at the society said, 'Who would ask a watchman for his address and keep a note of it?' Now we were in a great problem. I thought, I myself do not have a place to go and where would I take him around. So we went straight to Swargate and I put him on a bus to Barshi. It was evening by now. I did not know anyone else in Pune and did not have any money to go to a lodge. Finally I decided to spend the night at the ST stand. I slept a little with the suitcase as a pillow and spent the entire night sitting at the bus stand. I had to join college on 20 th June 1986 as a Professor. I woke up early in the morning. In those days there was no Sulabh Shauchalay. There was no facility at the bus station

to take a bath. They use to have Dalda cans filled with water in toilets. I filled up a can with water, came out, moistened my hair. I washed my face, washed my hair to make it appear that I had a bath and joined 'Jedhe College' as a Professor without a bath. I will never in my life forget my first day in Pune. At this very Swargate location, I now have my own hotel costing about Rs 15 crores. Though I did not possess any means at that time it was the determination and conviction in my mind that I would open my own hotel near this bus stand where I had to spend a penniless night.

It was my first day at College. We had some Professors who had lived in cities all the time, they would be in their own world. After the college, it began to bother my mind again, where should I stay? I enquired in the office and was told that the college had a hostel. A Clerk in the college named Shelke was the 'Rector' of the hostel. I went to him and requested him to allow me to stay there for a few days. I told him that I would soon make alternative arrangements and began staying in the Rector's room. The room did not have a bathroom. One had to sit on the kitchen platform and take a bath with cold water using a tumbler. I must have spent about a month there. But there was an attendant named Khengre. He used to cook Pohe every morning and used to serve the same to us. Both Shelke and Khegre helped me a lot in my initial days at Pune.

Around the same time, Professor Abhimanyu Kadam was also staying with us. He had a very modest nature; he was from our area too. He and me began looking for an accommodation. We got a place near Ramoshi gate. We used to walk about 3 kms to college every day. The nearest place to eat was 2 to 3 kms away on the other side of the city. After college, we had to walk six kms for lunch and for coming back to college. We had hired a room on cot basis.

In those times, I had heard that the college dismisses some professors every year and does not treat teachers very well. Though I was very poor financially, I had great self respect and had a stubborn nature. I had decided in my mind that I would serve for as many days as it would last. Until then, I would take admission to the L.LB course, If I lose my job, I would begin practice as a lawyer. It was not possible to return to my village. My both elder brothers were already struggling as farmers and I did not want to add to their problems. Therefore, I was determined to become a professor or a lawyer. The next day, I took admission to the 'Erandavna Law college of Bharati Vidyapith'. The college was at least 12/13 kms away from where I was staying. Daily attendance at the college was not necessary but, I decided to take admission to Avhad's Law Classes on Karve Road in order to study law subjects. I attended these classes for three years. Advocate S.E. Avhad who was referred to as 'Chhote Sir' did not take any money from

me at all. In those days, my salary was just Rs 1836 per month. The entire responsibility of the family was on my shoulders. I had to manage my expenses within 836 Rs per month. In that I had to accommodate travel expenses to the village every week. I was sending 1000 Rs. a month to the family at home. That was how I began my career.

I went to Avhad classes for the first time. Senior legal expert Advocate Bhaskarrao Avhad was known as 'Bade Sir' or B.E. Avhad. He used to teach himself in these classes. Later he was to stop teaching and hand over the business to Chhote Sir, I heard his last lecture in the class in our batch. He used to teach 18 to 20 subjects without any notes in his hand. Looking at his vast knowledge, I decided that I would teach in my classes without any books from the next day. I used to read a lot and learn many topics by heart during the night, in my entire career as a Professor I taught eighteen subjects ranging from mathematics to cost accountancy without any book in my hands and I am quite proud of this.

I met PSI Mule during this period. I used to teach him all law subjects in Marathi. He was rather weak in studies but he completed five years of Pune University law studies in Marathi just within three years. He did a lot of his CID work with me. So I went to my village and got out all local information that was required.

I served in Appasaheb Jedhe College for 22 years. I had varied experiences in my native village but, I must have had lot more sweet and bitter experiences at Jedhe College with many of my Professor brothers and sisters. Appsaheb Jedhe College was the first act of the drama of my life. Just as many events take place in a drama, I had a number of good and bad experiences here too. The staff room at Jedhe College was like a wrestling ring; everyone had freedom of speech. Everyone at this place had a different nature and had a different set of skills. I learnt something or the other from each one of them and I made my life more meaningful by using this experience.

Professor Walke was really a vibrant stream of Spiritual knowledge. Walke Sir lived a spiritual life in the real sense and I learnt spirituality from him.

- I learnt honesty in the job and discipline from Professor Pandare.
- I learnt how to treat others from Professor Thorat.
- I learnt self control and tranquility from Professor Vidya Kachre
- I learnt how to move about smartly in a job from Professor Satav.
- I learnt loyalty to the Master from the college attendant Pandu Pawar.
- I opted for Income Tax practice because of insults I suffered at the hands of Shri Badghe.

- I learnt the importance of hard work and readiness to face opposition from ex-justice Chavan Sir.
- I learnt shrewdness from Principal Kamble. I learnt real friendship from Professor Bhoite. I was in close touch with all the Professors in my life. I was accumulating more and more qualities from them throughout my life.

Ex Justice Chavan Sir was my staff room member for some time. He used to take me to a side and give me sound knowledge about legal education and explain important information from newspapers in the staff room.

He was a real friend who showered affection on me. When I went to his friend's place to meet him, he was an acting judge. His friend was framing a question paper for Law exams. We had a nice chat together. He asked me if I need any MIP questions. I told him at that time that I was not learning Law to get more marks but I wanted to gain more knowledge of law. He had patted my back that time. He was highly disciplined but he was very amicable. My friendship with him has lasted for 35 years continuously. It will not be wrong to say that he is the most affectionate friend of mine.

CHAPTER 10

INCOME TAX PRACTICE

I was working in 'Jedhe College, Pune'. College timings were from 7-30 in the morning to 11-30 and we had the whole day free afterwards. Most of the staff used to go home for lunch in the afternoon and used to enjoy sound sleep. Later, they used to go for a walk in the evening. I had seen some of our professors who returned from the college in the afternoon and left home again only the next day at 7 am. I used to attend law classes in the evening and I was free rest of the time. I had just shifted to 'Vadgaon Budruk, Sinhagad Road'. There I found a room next to where our Professors Bhosle and Bhoite were staying. I asked them, 'Will I get a room here to stay?' In their neighbourhood there was a two rooms block in a chawl. They were also staying nearby. I decided to shift there. It must be around 1988. My shifting to Vadgaon Dhayri was a turning point in my life. I had heard from someone that one of our senior Professors had advised them not to let me have a room in that area. But M/s Bhosle and Bhoite did not listen to them and I began to stay in a chawl belonging to Principal Khot from Rayat Institute which was located near Trimurti Hospital Vadgaon, Sinahgad Road. I was in the third year of law. Mr. Badghe was our librarian. He was a close friend of mine. He had to fill his income tax return. We all filled up our income tax returns. Normally Yuvraj Thorat used to fill in these returns. But, he was not on good terms with Mr. Badghe. When I went to the library, he opened this topic with me. He said, 'You are doing L. LB, why don't you fill my returns?' 'I said, 'I cannot do it because they do not teach this in a law college. It is taught in the CA course. But he too did not know how to do it. In his unawareness, he had insulted me unknowingly. He said, 'Don't tell me anything. You must be able to do this. You do not know anything at all.' His words deeply hurt me. My resolute nature was challenged again. While coming down from Sinhagad Road, I used to see a name plate near my house showing Mr Khade, Tax Consultant. I decide to meet hem that very day and get to know everything about taxation. After coming from college I went to his office on the way and met him. He was an M. Com and GDCA while I was M com, M.A.; L. Lb, and GDCA. I requested him saying, 'I am a Professor, I do not need any money. I just want to learn. I had a scooter at that time. My scooter is another story altogether. I used to travel double seat on Mr Bhoite's scooter every day.

Professor Bhosle had a scooter too. One day I was late for college. I told Mr. Bhoite that I would come with Mr. Bhosle on his scooter. When I approached Mr Bhoite for the ride, Mrs. Bhosle said, 'How come you are traveling on our scooter today? Every day, you go with the other friend!' Again I felt insulted and challenged. I was determined to buy a scooter at any cost. There was a barber's shop near our place. He had recently bought a scooter. But he wanted a motor cycle and he wanted to sell that scooter. I bought that vehicle for Rs 4500. Now I had a scooter for myself. Mr Khade thought that he had a Professor student without paying fees but who could listen to a load of philosophy from him! He accepted to teach me and I began working with him from 12 noon to 8 pm every day for at least three years, just to learn a new skill. I began learning many Income tax procedures. If I made a mistake, I had to hear a lot of adverse remarks. Prakash Khade used to say, 'You are such a learned man and a Professor. You should not make a single mistake'. I was more qualified than him and I was a Professor. So he used to deliberately find some faults with me and I had to bear his insults and some philosophy too. But during this period, I learnt so many topics in great depth. When I was doing income tax jobs at Prakash Khade's office, he had an M80 scooter. I was younger than him so I used to drive the scooter and he sat at the back. Many of my Professor friends used to ridicule me on my back as a Driver, but, nobody dared to say it on my face.

After 3 years I began practicing on my own in my free time. Once, a street vendor had come to our house to sell plastic utensils. My wife and I bought some plastic containers from her. I remember, some of the ladies in our neighborhood, wives of my colleague professors began laughing at us. I have never forgotten that laugh and I made a vow to myself that if I want to teach a lesson to these people who were laughing at our poverty, I will have to work day and night to earn plenty of money.

I was working on many fronts day and night. My financial position was getting better. My so called well wisher Professor gave me a promotion and began calling me 'Manager' sarcastically. I used to hear from other people as nobody dared to speak on my face because of my stiff nature. I heard many comments but without making any counter comments, I was well on my way to progress and success in life. Whether I get any fees, money or no money, I always made it a point in my life to give my best even with the least of rewards. And I am enjoying the fruits of this attitude now.

My name was getting around quite fast in the Vadgaon Dhayri/ Sinhgad Road area. I was doing good work. I turned many children of farmers in that area into successful builders. I brought together some farmers who had land and those who had money to make a deal. I did everything right from preparing a Partnership deed to fill in Income Tax returns. We did not have computers in those days. We had to do

everything manually. I used to write Registers of Accounts myself. We had around 150 builders in our area that time. I had nearly 125 builders with me to whose matters were left to me. By then I began earning good money. I gave 90 % of the amount I earned to the temple I was building in my village. I completed that temple with the fees I earned in five years. I used to tally any project report very accurately in a jiffy. Those were reports comprising of 50 to 60 pages but I used to appraise them in no time at all.

When the Sinhgad Builders' Association was formed, I had earned such a good name that I was unanimously appointed Secretary of the Builders' Association. Later there was an election for the Chairmanship. I used to work very hard in those days; I used to fill in IT returns at 100 Rs. each. I used to help my clients get IT refunds too. At that time there was a well known Company named Bharucha Motiwala. I used to be a sub contractor for them for many years. I used to sit and work at the Dhole Patil Hotel. That was quite a trying time for me. For nearly 14 years I used to eat only once at 11 pm every day. I had no time to eat in the morning, there was so much work! I used to have a cold water bath after waking up. I used to serve with utmost integrity. I worked for 22 years in Jedhe College. But if you see my record, I had hardly two or three leaves in any year. I never left any job unattended. I worked very honestly. I was very honest in my Income Tax practice. I was very honest in my Building Profession. I was involved in Educating the Society and Social Work at the same time. I was doing nearly four persons' work single handedly. The high point of my IT practice came when I was appointed as an expert on the advisory committee for a Chief Commissioner for 'CBDT' by Shri Karmarkar. Gadgil Saheb was the 'CCIT' at that time. I became a member of Advisory Committee for entire Maharashtra except Mumbai. They used to have an MP on the Committee and Shri Pradip Rawat was on the Committee that year. This experience helped me a lot later. Many times, people had to pay a percentage for getting a refund from Income Tax. We made a recommendation in that meeting and suggested that the Central Authority should send the refund amount directly to the tax payer by post within a stipulated timeframe. This recommendation was accepted too.

I was coming up in life but many of my near ones could not digest my growth. Some unnamed people began sending complaints against me. Many complaints were being sent to the Directorate of Education, the Corruption Eradication Committee in the Collector's office, Income Tax department and the University too. There were many enquiries. But I was a Professor and was carrying out all my duties honestly. I was not taking up any financial assignments, I was not taking tuitions and there was no breach of any regulations on my part. However, destiny probably wanted to test me and make me bolder. I received maximum harassment from the Director of Education, Dr. Pathan. He put me under a lot of pressure. He told Principal Kamble to bring me to his office personally. He was incessantly after me. I prepared a 7 pages reply to refute all the allegations. At that time,

Professor Bengale supported me a lot. I went to Dr. Pathan with my reply. He interrogated me for two hours. He asked me a lot of fallacious questions and hassled me. I could not bear it any longer. I decided to corner him and decided to fight for the truth, come what may. He was very particular about my business activities. I said to him then, “Saheb, I am from a rich family. So I have some family businesses. I have not erred in any of my duties as a College Professor. I have not done nothing against the rules and regulations. I have not indulged in corruption. That is why I am not a criminal. There is no truth at all in your allegations. What remains to be answered is what I do in the afternoons. I perform my duties honestly. I go home after college, I have my food, I go to the place where my wife and my brother handle their business and I guide them, help them. If that is a crime, then I do it every day. He realized that I was getting a bit fractious. I got a bit temperamental and told him that I was no more interested in the job. I would file a case against him and the Principal for harassment without any reason. There is a circular from Government of Maharashtra that if they receive an anonymous letter, it should be thrown into the dust bin straight away. But, here, why were they taking so much interest in the case and making an enquiry. Then they realized that there was no sense in stretching this any further. They took my written reply and never called me again.

I gave all the earnings of those five years to the temple in our village. When I left the practice, I lost nearly 70 lakh Rs to my clients. But I invested whatever I earned in these years in the Construction business; more importantly, I never spent any money for myself.

When I was doing my Income tax practice, our Centering Contractor brought a student Santosh Bagade to me. He did not know the ABC of the practice. He did not even know how to wear his trousers. I taught him this business for ten years. I gave him some staff, an office. Later, I continued to rise in life. I was made Dean of the Commerce faculty in the University. I had much less time now for other activities. I handed over the entire business to him. But one day, he stole everything and ran away to his place. I helped his mother to get her money stuck with a builder. I never expected and I never took a penny from him or for that matter, from anyone I helped in my life. I had literally walked from one place to another and had created my clientele. I brought this business up over 15 years. Santosh said to me, ‘I will give you 1/3 of the profits from the business to you as Goodwill.’ But he never remained true to his words. I spoke to him a couple of times but gave up the matter eventually.

At that juncture I realized that many builders are rather uninformed and therefore they became builders. They do not have any other credentials. I began to think of Construction business at this stage of life. ◆◆◆

CHAPTER 11

CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS

With a view to settle down in Pune, I was thinking of buying a Guntha of land somewhere in Pune and building a house there. I was looking at various locations. Someone told me that Mr. Harishchandra Anna Dangat had a place to sell. I went to see him. He was grazing his buffalos at that time. He showed me the piece of land. I saw a plantation of 'ladies fingers' on the plot. That aroused the farmer inside me when I saw such a beautiful crop of ladies fingers! I said to him, 'You have such a beautiful farm and why do you want to sell it?' He told me that he had recently lost a buffalo and had a lot of debt to pay. He wanted to sell the land to repay the loan. Many days passed by thereafter. Later however, I bought same land belonging to the relatives of Balasaheb Pogle. In those days, banks were not availing loans for buying land. As we were Professors, we were sanctioned a loan of Rs 15000 each. We awarded the construction job also to Balasaheb. The house was completed. But he made a cost estimate which was right according to him, but we did not agree with it. He said, 'We include 'Bajri' glass in our prices when we quote our rates. But we gave 'Tomato' glass for your house, so there will be additional charges. You wanted a parapet, it will be charged extra, "Tulsi Vrindavan' will be extra, the canopy on the stair case will be charged extra. ' So he added 30000 to 40000 Rs more than our budget to the cost. Our budget went wrong but he never harassed us for the money. This regret remained in my mind for a long time. I thought, why can't I become a builder, I can also do it. So the inspiration for building profession came from Balasaheb Pogle.

In my mind I had not forgotten Harishchandra Anna's land. Once Kachare Madam's husband had come to our college when Harshad Mehta scandal was in the news. Banks were incurring huge losses. He said to me, 'If you keep money at home, it can get stolen. If we keep it in banks, we find that banks go bust too. A sudden realization dawned on me. One day, after college, I went straight to Harshchandra Anna and said to him, 'Anna, I have a plan. You do not want to sell your land, right?

We will make a partnership deal. See, you want to sell the land but in rural areas it is a matter of family reputation. However you have a need for 80000 Rs. I will give you one lakh Rs as deposit. You have priced your land at 80000 Rs a guntha, let us take it as Rs one lakh and you put up five lakh Rs as capital.

I will give you ten lakh Rs in return for the capital of Rs five lakh. 'I made him accept the deal. I went to Mr. Kachre and said to him, 'You have five lakh Rs with you. Let us invest them in the construction business. He was new in this field so he was quite hesitant. I told him, 'Look, your signature on the cheque book will be mandatory. Just keep a control on the expenditure. Whatever money I may receive, I shall still give you Ten Lakh Rs against five lakh Rs investment. Now I had a piece of land too. Five lakh Rs were to be deposited in the bank. I did not have a single rupee with me however. We needed three to four thousand rupees for registering the Partnership firm, opening a bank account, making a development agreement for the land making Power of Attorney etc. I did not have that much money even. I could not ask money from my two partners. Then I contacted a friend of my college clerk and borrowed five thousand rupees at 5% monthly interest. I completed all formalities with just 5000 Rs of my own capital, that too capital borrowed on interest. Thus I began my construction business and made a success out of it.

With good recovery and skillful sales we fulfilled our dream of building a house. We returned all the money that we borrowed and began the building business. Before this I had commenced a building called Vishvakarma on a plot belonging to Shri Natha Dhebe and completed in around the same time. At that time I sold a two room flat for as cheap as one lakh Rs and a three room flat for one and a half lakh Rs. Even if I earn less money, I wanted to fulfill my dream to establish my own construction business. Because of my Income Tax practice, I knew all the government regulations and permissions in construction business. I ran this business honestly with consistent hard work.

I had started a library at my native place Vadji. I wanted to start a library even in Pune. When I came to stay on Sinhgad Road, Kaka Chavan used to be found sitting at the hotel. I got introduced to him. We founded Navjyot Mitra Mandal and I got involved in Social Service. The area around Trimurti Hospital was named as Krantinagar by Shri Ashok Anna Mohol, who was an MLA at that time and who became an MP later on. In order to open a library and get the required permission I went to the office of the Joint Director. The Officer there told me to see the person under whose jurisdiction our area fell. He asked so many questions and raised so many difficulties that if anyone else was there in my place, he would have never thought

of opening a library. But I was quite determined in my mind to open a library at any cost. Aba Avchat was a prominent figure at that time. While talking to him, I told him about my construction business. He told me to see him the next day. I talked to his people. They had about one guntha each in that area near the Bangalore bye pass, totaling about 29 gunthas. He said to me, “Why don’t you develop this area. You are a teacher by profession”. He showed trust in me because I would never cheat being a teacher. I now had an opportunity to develop 20 gunthas of land on my own. Each one of the group was to be given a 450 sq. ft. house on the third or fourth floor. Except a Mr. Kumbhar, 19 people gave their land for this project and that is how ‘Vishvakarma Developers’ came into being.

I built two buildings each with 80 flats in that land. I had left enough space for a road near my house. Balasaheb Kapre had a plot just behind this location. I completed a large scheme comprising four buildings on this plot plus another plot belonging to Baliram Shelke. Later I completed several schemes as ‘Jadhvar Shelke Associates’, ‘Katariya Jadhvar Associates’, ‘Balaji Associates’, ‘Chandrama Residency’ and so on totaling more than 2000 flats. I earned a good name as a builder without getting any complaints from my clients. I completed a 100 flat scheme called ‘Chandrama Residency’ with Kaka Chavan. I gave whatever money I earned from this project to build a premises for ‘Dhayreshwar Vidya and Kreedha Pratishthan’. I completed this scheme with Anna Joshi and Ghate Sir.

I had only one sad experience in this whole period. I found that even most illiterate and ignorant partners turned out to be very clever in this profession. They used to tell me to bring loans for construction, look after all legal matters, make all the effort to sell the flats. And when payments began to come, they used to come rushing around and grab the money. I was the last remaining person to get any money from the recovery. As I was very considerate, I gave up large sums of money just like that and lost a fortune because of not demanding and insisting on payment.

But I gave preference and priority to the poor and common people in the Society being in the construction business and I am quite proud of this fact. I completed the very first and best scheme comprising 100 flats in Narhe village, called ‘Aditya Sanskruti’, along with well known builders Aditya Builders.



CHAPTER 12

LAUNCHING AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

I was working as a Professor at “Appasaheb Jedhe College”. I had all kinds of experiences establishing a High School at my village, bringing a Minister to our village, running the ‘Krantiveer Organization’ etc. Thus, I had great passion for social work and for the betterment of students. I was working very sincerely for student community especially for rural and poor students. I was always with the students in their sorrow and happiness, I maintained close relations with them but I was also quite strict with them too. I was known as a popular teacher among students. While teaching Commercial and Trade Laws to rural students, I encouraged them to learn this topic in English. Many of my students were encouraged to take up Law studies later. Many of them became good lawyers and some became judges in courts too later on. I used to invite renowned social activists like Balasaheb Bhardé, Bhai Vaidya, Nilamtai Gorhe to my class to give lectures. But, my College did not really cooperate with me to take up many programmes that I desired to have. I set up a students’ Organization called ‘Rashtriya Ekatmata Vichar Manch’. Most of the programmes later were shown to be as organized by students, but I did all the work keeping the students in front. As I taught them many good things in life and inspired all these students, a very nice group of students was formed. Many of my colleague Professors could not bear my popularity. They used to oppose our activities, they never spoke on face but behaved quite inimically. I was the only one who worked with great enthusiasm. Pro. Y.R. Thorat was our In-Charge at that time. He called me and said, ‘You know a lot of people. We had made a proposal to the Government about our Arts and Commerce faculties, but it is not approved and it is returned to us.’ He gave a copy to me and said, ‘Would you be able to get this permission for us? You claim to know a lot of people. I said, ‘Let me try,’ I struggled a lot and tried in many ways to get this approval. My

cousin brother used to sell his Mava to a hotel in Pen. The MLA from that constituency had become the Minister for Education. The owner of the hotel which used to buy his Mava was the Chairman of the Municipality then. I found a connection through Konkan. I met him. After frequent visits for three months, we received the permission finally. I was very happy but no one thanked me for this.

Just a week before we got the letter of permission, Professor Kamble had joined our college as Principal. I was about to bring that order. I asked him if he could come with me to Mumbai as we were likely to receive permission for B.A. and M.Com courses. I went to Mantralaya Mumbai along with Principal Kamble and Mr. O.S. Satav. The Hons. Sachiv Mr. Joshi was a friend of mine. He gave us the order immediately and we returned to Pune. Actually I had worked very hard for last six months to get that order. The Principal was with us only on the last day to receive the order. He had never participated in the required procedure. The entire process for the permission was completed before he had joined the College. After a few days, there was a function to inaugurate the B.A and M. Com. Course at the College. I was sitting as a mere spectator in the hall. My only expectation was that they would mention the contribution of a college professor to get the approval for the course; just a mere mention would have made me happy. Neither the Society nor the Principal mentioned my name in the function. The Ceremony got over; nobody uttered a word of thanks for me. I felt very sad. Truth never prevails in the world ! however, I take all such insults in my life in a positive way. My resolute nature was challenged again. I made up my mind to start my own Education Society.

I left the college one day and went straight to Sarpanch of Vadgaon Budruk, Shri Babasaheb Dangat. I told him, 'We want to open a school here. When we built those houses, he had signed all the plans and gave his seal without any charges as we were all teachers. I had great affection for him and he too had respect for me. There is a story why he put his trust in me. As I was working in the Education field, he used to have a high opinion about me. Once he wanted to distribute school 'books' through 'Grampanchayat funds'. A part of the budget was to be spent on books. He called me and Kaka Chavan to the "Gram Panchayat". I told him about my idea of a "book bank". I told him that we should give books to students this year only on the promise that they would return the same in good condition the next year. Thus next year we shall combine new and old books so that we will be able to provide books to 100 % of the children in four years. He and all other members of the Gram Panchayat liked this concept very much. But the Principal of the village school did not like the idea, because the job of getting the books was given to us and he would not have benefitted

from it. Yet he would have to implement the scheme. After the books arrived, he played a trick. He began to tell everyone that I and Kaka had taken some commission in the book purchase deal. He told the Gram Panchayat that while purchasing books worth Rs 20000, we took 10% commission i.e. 2000 Rs in the deal. Me and Kaka were called to the Panchayat for a meeting. We never knew about this earlier. Tatya Dangat was a member of the Gram Panchayat. He said, 'Jadhavar Sir was working on our Income Tax matters and he never asked for any money even after two years. I do not believe that he would share with someone a commission of 2000 Rs. 'We called the book seller also to the meeting. He showed how he gave books worth 20000 Rs. he had given books worth Rs 4000 as 20 % commission. He showed both bills to the Gram Panchayat. They checked the records in the Gram Panchayat and from then on he had even more trust in us.

I finished my college hours and went to the Sarpanch. I told him that we wanted to open a school. He said, 'I do not know anything about this matter, how can we do it?' I told him, 'I will manage everything. You don't have to worry. Just help me a bit. 'He had full belief in my ability and my honesty. He agreed with me and we decided the same day to start an eighth standard class in Vadgaon. At that time we just had a ZP secondary school up to standard 7. Children were not sent to Pune for further studies in those days. Many girls stopped studying after 7th standard. My cousin brother Dharma too was jobless and I took him to the Sarpanch. I got a Primary School classroom from the Sarpanch and began an 8th standard class there. In the first year we just had 7/8 girl students, that too with great difficulty. We started the High School without any permission and late our Education Society commenced its activities in 1995.

Just a week before, it so happened that another cousin of mine had returned to the village after completing his B. Ed. He had done BA (English) with B. Ed. I had very amicable relations with Ashok Mohol. My uncle was always after me to get a job for his son Dharma, so I went to Shri Ashok Mohol. He was managing 30/40 high schools under two Societies. I requested him to get a job for Dharma in one of the schools. He told me that there was no vacancy and I felt very sad. His refusal had always remained in my mind. This incident and the insult at the function in Jedhe College prompted me to start the first Society named after Chandrakant Yashwant Dangat Patil.

Next year our Gram Panchayat held its elections and they elected a Sarpanch from another party. Akrursheth Kudale became the Sarpanch. He told me immediately that they would not give any classrooms for our school that year. He said, 'Yours is a private school and you will not get our classrooms. You should find your way out. 'I

went to ex-Sarpanch Dangat Patil and told him the whole story. He said to me, “I have some place just near the school. There is a stable there and there are some rooms. They are given out on rent. ‘We got the rooms vacated. But one book seller tenant was taking a lot of time to vacate his room. We got him another room on rent. We carried all his books the new room and we got the whole six room building vacated soon. There was a small garbage dump yard filled with cow dung. We got it filled up and cleaned. We emptied the place taking out all junk accumulated there. Afterwards we built a stone compound around. We shifted our school there and breathed a sigh of relief.

Our school did not have an official permission. I went to see many important people in Mumbai along with Kaka and Nana. I met Minister Shri Thopte Saheb and MLA Shri Rambhau Mojhe so many times, but during the Congress rule, we did not get a single permission. Later, Shiv Sena and BJP alliance came to power in the State. I got introduced to the young and dynamic Shiv Sena President for Pune District Shri Nanasahab Balkawde who became a close friend of mine later on. I requested him to look into the matter and he promised to help too.

I was trying various ways to get a permission for the school. I found a way soon after. At that time Hon. Shashikant Sutar was a Minister in the State. His brother was married to the daughter of Khade Anna from Vadgaon. I met him. I told him that we would take Mr Janardan Khade, his son on the Board of the School. We requested him to approach Shashikantji Sutar and try to get permission for our school. He agreed immediately. I myself went with Anna Khade to Mumbai and met Shashikantji Sutar at his Bungalow. He was the Guardian Minister for Pune at that time and Sudhir Bhau Joshi was the Education Minister. Anna Khade told Sutar Saheb why we had come, but he dropped a bombshell on us. He told us that the list had already been made and we were very late. I felt very sad but I put some pressure on Anna, saying that if Sutarji would ask the Education Minister, we would surely get a permission. Khade Anna told him, ‘Please try and speak to the Education Minister.’ Sutar bhau said, ‘Look, he is a very senior leader of Shiv Sena. Let’s do one thing, instead of a phone call, let us go to his “Royal Stone” Bungalow. ‘He took us in his car with a red beacon to that bungalow. He told the Minister the same thing though we were late. Sutar Bhau told him.’ He is my brother’s father-in-law. So please see if you can do something. ‘At that very moment, The Minister wrote the remark’ Marathi Medium and English Medium Primary School’ on our application. We got the required permissions within a few days later. I tried my best, but I would be honest and would certainly admit that the credit for this goes to Khade Anna. We got the permissions and the schools started functioning. But though High School classes had commenced earlier, we did not still

have permissions for High School. I use to remind Nana Balkawde quite often. Once he took me along while going to Mumbai and arranged a meeting with Sudhir Bhau Joshi. He also introduced me to his son in law Shirish Phadtare and requested him to help me for required permissions. At one go he gave me permission for a Marathi High School and an English High School, a Girl's school, a Primary School at Dhayri and a High School at our village Nandur, District Beed . In all we got permissions for six schools and our Education Society suddenly grew to become a large institution. The entire credit for this growth goes to Shri Nana Balkawde and Shri Shirish Phadtare.

Later we had Parliamentary elections. Nana Balkwade and Ashok Mohol got both got tickets for the election. Both of them were friends of mine. But I owed more debt to Nana Balkawde because he helped me get my schools. Earlier too I used to follow Ashok Mohol along with Kaka and Nana for two/three years, but we never got any permission from him earlier. Nana Balkawde gave me an assignment to make a list of people who could help make candidates' slips during the voting process. I engaged all my staff and provided him all the slips required at that time. I had told Kaka and Nana about this because I was doing this for the opposition party. I remember Nana Balkawde forced me to accompany him for election rallies and make speeches there too. When Ashok Mohol came to know about this, he stopped calling me .From that time our relations worsened for ever. I had lost such a good friend in life, but I was not at fault. I had to make this sacrifice for my Society. In my entire life I had to make so many sacrifices for various organizations that I worked for. But the only satisfaction was that the Organisation continued to grow. Later, I got enough money, I had the required intelligence, elocution skills and a leader's personality too. But I sacrificed all my political interests just to work for my organizations and benefit my institutions. Many of my friends were in politics. I had to make many sacrifices to avoid opposing my friends in politics. My Institutions continued to grow. The Dangat Patil Society started a College later on. I myself gave up my service in a Government Grant College and became the Principal of a non-grant College. I lost lakhs of Rupees with this decision. I never cared for this loss. I built many institutions through my sacrifice. The Dangat Family gave their land to us. It must be about 18 to 20 acres of land. Initially he wrote down the whole land to us. Because of his generous donation, the Society could grow so well. When all of them gave their lands, we set up the Institute on a hill. I took material worth Rs 7 lakhs from my own building sites and built the school premises. After a few months, we built the school building at the back too. While building the Dhayri School we returned one lakh Rs borrowed from Kaka. With the help of 50000 Rs from Advocate Jagtap, substantial help by way of aggregate, soil and

labour provided by Shri Vikas Patil , totally amounting to 3.5 lakh Rs.; in addition to some other borrowings from here and there, I built the entire school. I managed the school entirely on my own until it grew to become a large school. I left no scope for any complaints from any quarters. But later, politics cast its shadow on the school .After the election of Vikas Patil and Ramesh Wanjale, our Society began suffering badly. The Sarpanch and all his family members had a misunderstanding that I campaigned for these people and all my sacrifice went in vain. If I had bought land with 7 lakh Rs on my own, I would have got 70 gunthas of land and I would have built my own campus. But I never thought of selfish interests. I kept assuming that Dangat family is very kind, all the misunderstanding would go away and everything would be all right. With this mind I kept on working hard. I would like to state on oath here that I never campaigned for Vikas Patil, Ramesh Wanjale or anyone else. From that day, I left politics for ever. But this sacrifice was of no use to me. Now our organization is 25 years old. When I myself registered the Vadgaon and Dhayri Institutions, I could have appointed my family members on the Board, but I never did such a thing.

Some less educated but very selfish people turned out to be cleverer and smarter than me. I put only my name as Secretary in our organization. I trusted all the employees from both my organizations but not for very long. Still the Institutions have completed 25 years now. But I must admit my mistakes any how.

I was keen on starting a second educational institute along with Kaka. I had great experiences with my cousin brother. Kisan Jadhavar is one of my close relatives. He had opened a school at Pathvad Tehsil Bhoom nearly 50 years ago. They opened many other branches later on, including one at Paranda. This school made a name for itself. But later some people in the Institute woke up suddenly and removed Mr. Jadhav himself. I knew about this. But I had a firm belief that Kaka Chavan's people and those in the Dangat organization were not of that type. Therefore I set up the new institute myself and registered the same myself too. I could have appointed half my family on the Board but, I firmly trusted both these families and was really attached to them. Therefore I became Secretary in both their organizations and they too did not insist on having my family members in the team. I always remembered my association with Kisan Jadhavar, but I had an institution to set up. If one of the institutions comes into any problem, there should be another supporting institution to bring overall stability. With this view I requested Kaka and Nandusheth and persisted with my efforts to set up the 'Dhareshwar Vidya and Kreedha Pratishthan' under Dangat Patil Society. I worked day night to get all required permissions for these organizations too. Except a couple of permissions, I do not think that Kaka got any other permissions for us. I did

all that was required right from starting recruiting people in the Girls' School to setting up and expanding so many branches later on. Kaka was now in politics. Initially he got elected as a Corporator. In all these five years of his tenure Kaka must have spent just about 10 % of his time on the School and primary activities of the Institution. I worked very hard to build a beautiful premises for the Organisation. There was a large demand for MBA courses at that time, so we decided to start an MBA course. We got a beautiful designed made for the building and Kaka himself supervised the construction day and night and completed the building. I was not in a good position at that time. Still I did manage to collect one crore and nine lakh Rupees for the School Building at Dhayri. Perhaps I may have paid a similar amount on interest too during that period.

I developed close friendship with Mr. Ramesh Wanjale around this time. I felt that I should start an institution with a forceful personality; so I founded the "Jai Ganesh Education Foundation" along with Shri Ramesh Wanjale. Here again I was doing everything for the Foundation as Shri Wanjale did not have any time for this activity. Still we began B.Ed and D. Ed. English medium courses in this institute. As Shri Wanjale expired at an early age, this institute could not grow any more.

MLA Shri Wanjale always encouraged me in my efforts. He used to tell me, 'Make this institute grow like Prof. Navale's Society, set up a University, expand the Organization and so on. We had begun to acquire land at his native place too for this purpose. We bought 25 acres of land and later there was an election for the Assembly. He got busy with many felicitations and functions and expired soon after. We could not complete that project and that regret has always remained in my mind. Our "Chandrakant Dangat Library" was functioning at full speed. Nandu Sheth had given his land to us free of cost, we were looking for additional land. Before this I remember that ours was the first private library to publish a Calendar and distributed it throughout Maharashtra. For the first time a private library conducted a seminar for three days at the "Maharashtra State level". Many renowned people including the Directors attended the event.

As Sarpanch Shri Dangat had helped buying books for the library initially, we had made him the Chairman of the organization. We decided to buy some land from Shri Pokle. Dada Pokle had a Purchase deed for two 4 bhk flat with a terrace for 2000 sq. ft. Kaka thought that the property was to be transferred in the name of the Institute. So Kaka thought that anyone from the Institute could have gone for signing the agreement. Therefore he said, 'Let us go and sign the deed.' There was no intention to keep the Sarpanch away. However, he had some misunderstanding and he thought

that we did not take him deliberately for signing the agreement. Again our good relationship was disturbed like spoiling milk with a grain of salt. We told him again and again and tried to convince him. Now it looks like that his misunderstanding has been subdued substantially. Most of the debt is over. The Library ranks among a grade libraries in the district. A number of programmes are held by the library. Nearly 80 students come regularly to the library and study for MPSC and similar examinations.

Some time in between, myself and Shri Mulik bought an institute called Ninai Devi at Dhankavadi. This school had its own premises and classes from first to tenth standards. We got it for just Rs 60 lakhs at that time. Later I could not get along with Mr Mulik. So I bought the school myself for one and a half crore Rs. I ran the school for 3- 4 years but I found that too much time was being spent on a small school. Then with a view to open a new campus on Pari Road, I sold that school and the institute to Fulchand Chate Sir at a loss of 50 lakh Rs. He paid me slowly over two years but as he was quite close to me, I just gave it to him. I met Shri. Sunil Jaybhay and Shri. Sarsekar through him at a Birth Day function. Shri. Sarsekar built a new campus on Pari Road. Because of Shri. Sunil Jaybhay I could buy the “Prerana Pratishthan Organization”. Chate Sir is a good friend of mine; he works very hard and always takes progressive steps.

I had bought Tatya Dangat’s place at Narhe in the meanwhile in a joint venture. We did not agree entirely, so I claimed my portion of the property. I wanted to promote my scheme in those three acres and I was looking for a good builder. We had lost four years already because of the stubborn nature of the owner. It was necessary to complete the premises within one year and get a Completion Certificate in order to take advantage of Section 80 IB. I was looking for a bigger builder. Someone suggested the name of Aditya Builders. I met them afterwards. I found them quite reasonable and I completed the Narhe project with them by the name “Aditya Sanskruti”. We had some spare amenity space in that project. I told them that there was ample scope for an MBA course at that time and suggested that we should pursue the same. They agreed and we founded the Aditya Education Foundation. We built a nice building, commenced the MBA course. But unfortunately MBA began to lose its charm the very year that we started the course. We had used our own place and 3.5 crore Rs jointly by that time. Some time later, we had Mr. Kulkarni as a Director who tried to create a rift between the two of us. I remember that there was a just a compound wall between my house and the MBA building. But I did not enter that building for at least two years. He brought his daughter on the Board, he told her to look after the Institute but because of her very adamant nature so many good teachers left the Institute and finally The MBA facility was on a steep decline. I told Shethji once, ‘ Either you take this up or give it

to me. Let us decide the price.’ He told me, “Take my Pirangut land for development and have your share out of the proceeds thereof.” Initially he said, ‘Yes’; he agreed on the price and later told me, ‘Forget the place, just pay me back within one year.’ I was in a big problem, because that plot and building was valued at Rs ten Crore as per the market price and he wanted money in that proportion. This was too steep a price to pay. We had invested just 3.5 crore Rs but against that I had to pay a share of Rs 5.5 crore Rs. Still I completed the deal. I was in a deep fix and felt very much cheated. Now the Institute is running an MBA course, just next to this building we have an English Medium CBSE School. The Jr. College is also doing well.

I had founded the late “Uddhavrao Tulshiram Jadhvar Foundation” along with Chandrakant Yashvant Dangat Patil Society. When my son Shardul was born in 1995, I had founded this organization. But until 2014 i.e. for nearly 19/20 years there was no activity in this Institution. The purpose was to set up sizeable educational institutions with support from Kaka, Nana and Ramesh Wanjale. I had no personal agenda in this at all. I had a firm belief that I will never have any problems with that family. Therefore, I knew this for over 20 years and I had a lion’s share in bringing up all the institutions, I had not opened a single school for myself. Perhaps I could have easily put up my own complex of 4/5 acres of the land in whatever money I invested in these organizations. But I did not do it because I had a dream to build bigger institutions with these three people.

We built all the premises of “C.Y. Dangat Patil Society” on the hilly plots donated by Dangat Patil. The road was also built by Dangat Patil. But it was a rough road. Children had to struggle a lot coming to school in the rainy season. It was getting too muddy and children’s socks and feet used to get deeply stuck in the mud. At this juncture Harishchandra Anna Dangat who is a friend and partner of mine had been elected as the first Corporator from this area. I said to him, ‘Anna, my students find it very difficult to come to school in rainy season. Can we do something about the road?’ Then he got some funds from ‘Shiv Sena’ MLA quota and got the road repaired. Next year when that MLA visited Pune he asked, ‘where is the road that was repaired?’ Anna told him that they would visit the site soon. He phoned me and told me that the MLA who gave funds, is coming to visit the school in an hour. I immediately arranged for a shawl and a coconut. We collected all students together and felicitated him in a short function. This news reached Shri Pandharinath Patil father of Vikas patil. When he came to his farm just by the side of our school, he called me and spoke about that function. He suggested to me indirectly that Harishandra Anna or other leaders from the opposition parties should not be called as guests to the school. From that time we

had some difficulties in inviting guests to the school. My own opinion is that Schools and Educational Institutions should be kept away from politics. Those who give knowledge and those who help the school in any way ought to be invited to the school. The school does not belong to a political party. Students and their guardians can be from different political parties. In fact I wanted to hold so many functions. I wanted to bring many great people to the school and enhance the knowledge of students and prestige of our school. I knew the same question would arise in case of Kaka's school because Kaka was clearly an office bearer of a political party. Around this time, I lost my father. 'Dangat Patil Society' had many more school branches at that time. Kaka had said once that one of the schools should be named after my father. But later no one brought up the topic. However while opening the Dhayri schools I had already named them after Kaka's father and mother. The Dangat Patil Society was actually named as Chandrakant Dangat Patil Institute. All school branches were given specific names. But though I worked so hard for all these institutions, no one had suggested my father's name to any of the branches. This regret has always remained in my mind.

Assembly elections were declared in 2010. I was lucky that the Chairman of one of my institutions was definitely going to become an MLA and that I could now expand the organization. But the unfortunate part was that either the Chairman or Executive President would lose the election and we would find ourselves in a dilemma. This was so because Dangat Patil and Ramesh Wanjale had both got tickets but on behalf of opposite parties. I said to both of them, 'I am in a problem because whom do I canvas for? Neither me nor any of my family members will canvas for anyone. I will just bring a bouquet and a handkerchief. I will give the bouquet to my friend who wins the election and I will give the handkerchief to the friend who loses the contest, to wipe off his tears. 'And actually I did not canvas for anyone. On the other hand I did go to Vikas patil's election office several times. Despite my offer of help, nobody gave me any election assignment. I met Ravi Charvad in Vikas Patil's office at that time. Wanjale told me, 'You may not canvas for me, but you should not go to anyone else for canvassing.' I agreed to his suggestion. Election results were announced and Ramesh Wanjale won the election. Later I had gone to our village when Babasaheb Dangat Patil called me. He said, 'Where are you?' I said, 'I have come home to spend Diwali here.' He said, "You and Wanjale made a lot of money in the land business and used that money against us during the election." I said, "On the other hand I did not let him sell any land in that period. If he spent his share of the money that we earned together for elections, is that my fault? I never gave my money to him and how would I know that you both would stand for elections opposite each other? 'But he never

wanted to understand my argument and told me to see him on my return. Until then I knew nothing about this.

When I came back to Pune and went to the Sarpanch to get his signature on the Service Book, his elder brother Pandharinath Patil was there. He did not sign the book and to date, he has never signed any of my papers. Pandharinath Patil is called Bhau by people. In fact he intimidated me and threatened me with my life. The Sarpanch too was present at that occasion. I requested him and said, “Really I did not canvas for anyone. Show me one person who would testify that I told him to vote for a particular candidate.’ When they did not listen to me I kept sitting there and said,’ Now I will not leave this place even if my bones are broken.’ There was a long discussion. Finally Sarpanch said,’ You should leave now.’ I felt very sad, I was the one who established the organization, had worked so honestly day and night for the Institution, but finally, people began to doubt me. From that day their family began to look at me with a different angle. Vikas Nana was out of station, I told him the whole story on phone but he came out angrily at me saying,’ Why did you go home at all?’ He said,’ I will file a case against you, claiming that you are holding a pistol in your hand and you are threatening to kill me.’ I felt very bad, that was the fruit of my hard work for so many years! Even today his words are etched in my mind. In the meanwhile Vikas Patil and Sarpanch asked for my resignation. I was sure that this matter will be closed soon enough. I wrote letters to all office bearers of Rashtravadi Congress including Hon. Shri Sharad Pawar. I file a complaint with SP Pune, Dy SP and the haveli Police Station. I said in my complaint that if anything happens to me or anyone in my family, the entire responsibility will fall on Vikas Dangat Patil and his family. At this moment, whatever relations remained between us are also spoilt badly.

I stood for election of “Dean” of the University. I wanted to fill in my application. I requested the Sarpanch to sign my papers but he refused. I was the Secretary and I required the signature of a senior office bearer, Vice Chairman or the Executive Chairman. I gave the form to Nana, but he never signed and never returned the form to me. He never gave his signature in both the elections. But he was expecting support from me to canvas for him. But in all the two/three elections Kaka signed as Vice Chairman whenever I wanted his signatures. I became the Dean and also a member of the Management Council. But I was not given signatures by some people in such a prestigious election, forget any co-operation in the process!

I met Kaka and Nandusheth and told them the whole story. I had come to “C.Y.D.P Institute” as the “Principal”. I told Kaka, ‘I would like to head the MBA department next year. I do not want to stay in this society any more. Why don’t you take half the Board

members from our family? 'Both Kaka and Nandusheth agreed but later Kaka avoided the issue even when I gave him some names. He did not keep his word but I had great belief in Kaka. We were together for 32 to 35 years. He had always kept his word but, this time he avoided to be true to his word. I felt very sad. Around the same time I met Nandusheth. Nandusheth is a simple and honest man. He had a firm personality and would introduce me as his elder brother. He said to me,' Sir, you are doing all the work and our Kaka and Nana are taking full credit for it. You are very intelligent and you can really do anything. Would you listen to my suggestion? What you should do is to set up an independent new institution and make it bigger than any one of these. Otherwise, the same story will repeat.' He opened my eyes and at that moment, I decided to start my own organization. In 2014, Hon. Modi became our Prime Minister and that year only I founded "Late Uddhavrao Tulshiram Jadhvar Institution" which I was waiting to establish for 20 years after registration. Right from the first year I opened classes from Balwadi to College and had 1000 students to start with. I worked day and night to grow these organizations. I sincerely feel that all the credit behind my opening these institutions goes to Nandusheth Chavan. If he had not opened my eyes in time and if Kaka and Nana's family members had not treated me so badly, I certainly would not have been able to start an independent organization on my own.

I was regretting the fact that I had not named any of the three institutes after my own people. Therefore I named every branch after Jadhvar family. My son has passed his L LM, he is very promising and hard working and free from any addictions. Therefore I decided to expand these organizations and open many branches considering his involvement. Today we have classes from KG to PG courses and all of them are being conducted very well. Shardul was trained right since he was in the 11th standard. He was told to get daily information from all institutions in the afternoons. The day we started for our "Kailas Manas Sarovar" pilgrimage, we had got the permission for opening the college. He completed all the procedures right from opening the college to taking new admissions. For nearly five years he along with college peons went around in neighbourhood areas to fix display boards at various places. He has never hesitated to do any job for the Institute, Now we have two foundations: Aditya and Jadhvar. Both have 25 to 30 branches. Shardul looks after their operations quite independently. Many senior Professors tried to harass him but he is managing the affairs firmly. That was how the Jadhvar Foundation began.

Myself and my son, we were working day and night. With the aim of fulfilling the father's dream and setting up a University in his name, Shardul has been working incessantly. I met Shri Sunil Jaybhay in April 2019. He said to me,' You were looking

for a place for a University; there is “Universal Engineering College” just 10 km away from our Sasevadi campus. It belongs to Deshmukh Saheb and he is willing to sell it.’ I told him, ‘The place and campus are quite big and the price is also rather steep. This year we are not ready for it as yet. Let us make arrangements next year and then buy it.’ But he put a lot of pressure on us. Deshmukh Saheb being really a very honest gentleman with spiritual inclinations, we got along very well with him. The deal is finalized but there are some difficulties ahead.

“Corona” has spread worldwide. After getting out of the pandemic, we hope the deal will fully go through. My only prayer to the Almighty is ‘Let this dream of Shardul and mine to establish a University by 2025 be fulfilled.’ I hope that this Prerana Foundation will soon begin by the name “Jadhvar Gad”. At present Shardul is looking after all the work of “Prerana Foundation”. This is a real challenge like “Shiv Dhanushya”. Big price, big campus, a huge deal in prospect where there is no income at present. There are enormous difficulties. The present management is not spoken of highly. I know therefore that coming out of all these problems and making a name for ourselves is going to take a lot of effort, time and hard work. But we are quite hopeful of doing whatever is required. ◆◆◆

CHAPTER 13

FOREIGN TRAVELS

It must have been around 1988-89. At that time going abroad carried a lot of prestige. People travelling by air were looked at with awe. I made up my mind to travel abroad at whatever cost. We need a passport for foreign travel. During those days, there was only one Passport Office in Maharashtra at Mumbai. I went to an agent. I got together a bunch of young activists staying around Khadakwasla, Dhayri, Vadgaon Budruk, Hingne and made them agreeable for a foreign journey. We had about 15/20 people whose passports were to be made. None of them knew anything about this. Most of those young people with me at that time are occupying positions such as Sarpanch, Corporator, Party leaders at the Tehsil or District levels and so on and I am quite proud of them. Jagtap Patil was a Sarpanch. Kaka was a corporator and represented national parties at the district level, Ramesh Wanjale was an MLA, Harishchandra Anna was a Corporator. I can cite so many names.

I asked the agent how much he would charge. He asked for 1500 Rs per person at that time. I told him that we had about 15/20 passports to make, and he should give a discount and charge us 1000 or 1200 Rs per person. But he was rather rude and said abruptly, 'If you want me to take out the passports say so or go to whomsoever you want.' I felt very sad and again my fighting instinct was aroused. I decided to get these passports myself. I went to Mumbai, got all the information and forms, prepared papers for all the people, made a set of all necessary documents and file applications for 16 people. I got an appointment for each at the Passport Office and I took all of them to Mumbai for the interviews. We got all Passports by post soon thereafter. I paid only the official Passport Fee and took out Passports without any Agent's charges. But that is when I realized

“There is nothing impossible in this world

Everything is Possible.

If we are determined to do a task

Then anything is really possible.”

I realized that if we want to achieve something, honest and sincere efforts are a must with lots of confidence. I got to know that you can pull success to your side with hard work and this helped me greatly in all my future life.

Later I decided to make a trip to Europe. We decided to visit several countries in Europe for the first time through at Travel Company: “Happy Holidays”. Countries like England, France, Belgium, Vatican City, Italy and Switzerland were included in the itinerary. Most of the group of 16 came for the Visa Interview. Some of them did not get a Visa as they did not have any Income Proof being farmers. Ramesh Wanjale was asked, ‘Why do you want to go to England?’ He gave a strange answer, ‘I want to see how the country looks like which ruled over our nation for hundred and fifty years. Because of unnecessary comments his visa was rejected. Mate Sarpanch, Hemant Patil, Ramesh Wanjale—several of us did not get a Visa. The remaining 11 of us set off for a journey of Europe. We started for Mumbai from Pune. From there we went to London vial Milan by air. We were lucky because after a long time, there was sunshine in that part of Europe. It is very cold in these countries. These countries have really done excellent planning. These are small countries but all are very well planned. Firstly we went to London and toured the City. All roads, buildings and river banks are very meticulously planned. We saw the Queen’s Buckingham Palace, the other palace in the city, England’s parliament. We were quite astonished and pleased to see the elegant architecture there. The Thames river flows through the middle of the City but it is maintained very clean. Everything was so different from India. From there we went to Belgium by Hovercraft. Next time we went by Auro Train from England to France. This is a Railway that travels like a plane at 230- 300 km per hour. The train passes through a 50 km long underwater tunnel. We saw so many wonders including the beautiful Africa Tower, a city like Rome in Italy and so on. One has no words for the beauty of Switzerland, what a beautiful country! Lush greenery and trees everywhere and snow on top of the hills! We went to high spot on a mountain called ‘Mount Titlis’. There was snow everywhere and they were having snow sports there. You sit in a tyre and slide down a snowy slope. Shahajirao Police Inspector was with me that time. We decided to sit in that tyre. They were releasing the tyres one by one. They released mine and we started sliding down speedily. Suddenly my face turned around, the tyre caught good speed. I did not know what was happening. How deep down will I go ? I was very scared. While I was going down with speed there was a small ditch and I dropped out of the tyre. I was terribly worried. No one around and a deep valley below! From Switzerland we came to Italy. In between we had a halt at

Paris. We were going to take a stroll at the place where the film ‘An Evening in Paris’ was shot. We had a boat ride and that was a wonderful view. From there we went to Rome in Italy and checked in a hotel. We were joined to a World Tour Company called “Koni Travels” which is the largest tourist company in “Europe”. We had a Sardarji with us. We were given instructions that dinner will be available only before 8 pm as all restaurants are closed at 8 pm. We were having our dinner and planned to finish dinner before 8 pm. But the Sardarji came in just 5 minute before 8 pm. The waiter came in exactly at 8pm and took away his dinner plate. It was very much unlike India where dinner plates are not taken away if you had come in before time or when food is actually served to you. But looking at this strange custom, the Sardarji got wild and charged against the waiter. The hotel keeper called the Police and also brought in private bouncers. Italy is a Mafia Country. All over the world you find “mafia” from “Italy”. There are many instances of quick stealing here. You have to keep your Passport very safely. If you are not attentive, your bag may vanish in a minute. At that time, Police came in and everybody ran away. No one dared to come forward. Patil and myself came out stealthily and requested the hotel owner to send away the police. But his private bouncers with a stout and powerful body came in at that moment. We pleaded with them too. They told our tour manager that we should leave the city before six next day. The manager gave us deadline of 5-30 am to vacate the place. We saw literally nothing in that city and left Rome in early hours. Instead the arranged a tour of An Evening in Paris for us.

We began our return journey from “Milan”. There were no mobile phones at that time. We had to contact our families from a public phone. We told the family that we were starting that night and would land in Mumbai the next day morning. We would reach Pune by the afternoon. Afterwards there was no contact. We boarded the plane and the plane started on the runway. It was just about to take off when the pilot realized that one of the engines had a fault. He decided to brake then and there, the front wheels of the aircraft were still in the air. We were near the end of the runway, he applied all brakes. There was a big sound, everyone was terribly scared. In fact the first plane journey was the longest for us. When the plane took off from Mumbai, we could see its path on the screen. We were travelling over the sea for a long time and we were quite anxious. Will we drown here? We were reciting God’s name all the time. When we landed in Europe we heaved a sigh of relief. But what was happening during our return journey? We were really nervous. Many times when the plane meets rough air, it makes sounds like a bullock cart. Here even before taking off the plane was taken to the hangar for repairs with all of us inside. It was an Alitalia Plane. It took half day to

repair the plane in the hangar. After ensuring everything was okay, flight permission was granted. We were kept sitting in the plane only and not allowed to leave the plane because our Immigration was already done. Somehow the plane left Milan the next day morning and we landed at the Mumbai airport late at night. People who had come to receive us were really worried. The plane that was supposed to arrive in the morning had not come till so late. They could not even enquire on phone. People at home were worried, some began crying, some ladies took up a fast and prayers so that their husbands land safely. From that day my wife has been pursuing a vow on every Monday, praying to Lord Mahadeo and fasting that day. Somehow we reached Pune the next morning. We enjoyed the tour and sightseeing as much as we enjoyed all other happenings along with the flight experience. Thus we can say we had a successful tour.

TOUR OF FAR EAST

After our Europe Tour others who accompanied also began to feel like going abroad often. Those who could not come began saying, 'At least this year, take us on a foreign tour somewhere. Then I asked Shri Hemant Joshi and took him in the group. He suggested that we take a tour of the far East including Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore as it is easier to get visa for these countries. Again we assembled a group of 10/12 people and started preparing for a Far East tour. But that tour appeared too long for us as it was a 19 day tour. First we went to Thailand. A small country but they had made very nice tourist destinations. Roads and railways were far superior to ours and there was splendid beautification of cities. Hotels were excellently managed. We went to Malaysia also. First Kwalalampur and then to Genting Islands. Genting is a beautifully situated place on the mountains. We have to travel 10/15 km in a rope way cabin through a thick forest. The water park and the lovely hotel presented a beautiful scenario. We stayed there too. It is a poor country but Railway service is very nice. Every compartment has excellent quality and there is a TV inside every cabin. We traveled in planes, trains and buses too. Then we went to Singapore. Such a small country with just 50 sq km area and a population of around fifty lakhs! But this country enjoys far more facilities than the other two countries. They have developed beautiful parks and markets. But the Chinese were looking very dominant in this city state. The best experience in the tour was that on Star Cruise. This huge boat has 2000 rooms for passengers in addition to ample room for cargo and boasts four theaters, two swimming pools and two restaurants. Our group included Kaka, Patil Saheb, Ramesh Wanjale, Harshchandra Anna Dangat, balasaheb Pogle, Kachre Madam and her husband, Sambhaji raje and others. Just that day Patil Saheb had his Birth Day. We celebrated the Birth day on the "Cruise". We did many trips later on. My birthday falls on 6th June while Patil saheb's birth day falls on 4th June. We had many occasions when we celebrated our birthdays on a plane or during our travels. We had a Chinese person with us at that time. Kaka was giving slogans of "Ganpati Bappa Moraya" while he too was saying something very aloud making strange sounds. We had a hearty laugh listening to him. We were on the cruise for two nights and three days. This Cruise is not a % star but a & 'star property'. A huge beautifully and elegantly constructed boat! This 'cruise' is shown in the movie 'Hamraz' in which Akshay Khanna and Sunny Deol were heroes. We were very pleased with the experience. On returning from the Cruise we moved around Singapore and saw many places. They have an "Ayyappa Temple" built by Indians there. A big crowd gathers there every day. On Sundays most Indians there come out on roads and we feel that we are in India only. There is a very

large market called Mustafa Market. It belongs to an Indian and it is said that he was a known smuggler in his early days. This huge “Mustafa market” extends from one road to the next road. We saw the shop accepting even Indian Rupees there and there were many exchange bureaus as well. It would take two days to see the entire Mall; I saw such a big mall for the first time in my life.

We were slated to return the next day. We went to our rooms in the hotel. It was rather humid. Wanjale used to snore a lot so we had put Sambhaji Raje Dangat in his room. Their room had a latch lock. Someone knocked on their door. Raje came out but saw no one there. After a while there was a knock on the door again. He opened the door, someone was purposely knocking on the door and was going away. After some time again there was a knock. Raje got very wild, he came out and started looking for the mischief maker. But just then the door latch closed. Wanjale was fast asleep. Raje was just in his striped underwear. As it was very warm he had taken out his vest too. He knocked on his door. He did not know the room numbers of others in the group because we were always together. Great problem! Wanjale, the stout fellow was not waking up at all despite his loud shouting. Raje was in a fix. He knocked on the door again and again. But Wanjale did not respond. Then he tried another way. He thought that the next room belonged to one of us. So he knocked on the next door. That room had a couple from another country, they came rushing out. They were also in a problem because they could not speak English. The Hotel had passengers from all over the world and it was difficult to explain to anyone. They could not understand Marathi and Hindi. He went to the lift half naked, went up and down and that was a glass paneled lift. All the people were looking at him, he was highly embarrassed. Finally one person offered him a coat to wear. He was in his underwear and wore a coat without any shirt. It was great fun to watch. Somehow he went to the office. He did not know the local language, But there was an Indian person in the office so Wanjale explained to him in Hindi how the latch was closed. So that person brought a Master Key and got the door opened. Because of all this drama Raje was very irritated and he approached Wanjale as soon as the door opened, But Wanjale did not get up despite his loud shouting. We had such funny incidents during the journey !

It must have been one or two o'clock at night. Patil Saheb said to me, 'Sir, do you feel that that the room is shaking?' I said to him, 'Sir, we returned from the Cruise just yesterday that's why there may be an illusion like this.' Just then Kaka came running from the next room and said, 'Sir, our hotel is shaking.' Suddenly I got up, went to the window and saw that the hotel was really shaking at least half a foot on either side. I told everyone to run down as fast as possible. I pressed the lift button and it stopped.

We entered and the lift went straight to the 26th floor. The Hotel was still shaking. I said to Saheb,' We made a mistake. If electricity goes off, we shall get stuck in the lift and die of suffocation. But luckily the lift stopped. We ran out, we went running down the stairs and stood in the open ground in front of the hotel. Wanjale ran down sixteen stairs bare chested and started crying loudly,' We are going to die here. Why did you bring the trip here? 'But just then the police arrived, They told us that there was an 'earthquake' of 7 Richter scale in Indonesia. That's why buildings here start shaking but most buildings here have springs underneath. So buildings may shake but they will not collapse. Then only we were relieved. No one dared enter the Hotel. Nobody entered the hotel till the next morning. All of us spent the night sitting on the ground. We went to our rooms in the morning, had a bath and went straight to the Airport with our bags.

It was a six hour journey from Singapore airport to India. The plane was to travel over the Indian ocean via Chennai. It must have been two/three hours after our journey began. I got up from my seat to go to the wash room. Just then there was an announcement from the pilot that the weather outside was turbulent and passengers should keep sitting on their seats and fasten their seat belts. I thought let me just go and come back in a minute. But the plane suddenly hit an air pocket and came down about 200 to 300 feet. I thought that the plane is going to drown in the ocean and now that's it! We clearly felt the downward slide of the plane, it was the same feeling when you come down from the top in a merry go round. Then all of a sudden the plane came out of the air pocket and began flying smoothly. We were all looking at each others' faces. Nobody spoke a word. Somehow the plane touched Chennai airport and we heaved a sigh of relief. From there we came to Mumbai and were on our way to Pune. Just as you enjoy such trips and gain a lot of knowledge about other countries, you also have to face a number of difficulties during these journeys. That was our trip to the Far East. After this tour, Shri Hemant Joshi began his own travel company by the name 'Vakratunda Tours and Travels.'

Later, we went abroad almost every year for nearly 25 years and visited many countries. It may not be in order to describe each and every place here but I must mention some select experiences here. We toured China and Hong Kong later. China has certainly made remarkable progress over the years. China has achieved this progress through long term planning and meticulous implementation of the plans. The planned development of cities is shown through the superfast train between Shanghai city and the airport; the 1400 km railway route between Shanghai and Beijing and the huge River Link Project which India should look at seriously. China has worked

consistently for over 50 years on the River Link project and today this project has greatly helped the population with drinking water and water transport facilities. China has created special industrial zones and given large incentives for higher production and created huge markets for their products. We can see the results today. That is how China has become a Super Power at present.

Chinese population suffered enormous injustice and atrocities and Communist ideology was forced on their people. For the first 50-60 years there were many atrocities and wrong treatment of people but we can see the fruits of their hard work today.

Credit goes to China's education system. The Government gives grants to students for studies in developed countries. They have made fundamental changes in the education system. Most of the education is imparted in the mother tongue, only recently they have opened some English medium schools in China.

One of the wonders of the world is the "Wall of China". It is said that you can see this wall even from the moon. We visited this wall. It is said to be 5000 km long. The wall was built over many generations of Chinese dynasty . Today the wall is standing in tact as it was. This huge wall is built with stones and is so wide that a truck can travel over it. When we went to se the Wall we saw large scale tree plantation on the way. We asked the guide how come all the trees look so vibrant. His reply was very significant. He said, "We plant trees every year. Whatever the number of trees that die in a year, we plant the same number of trees in the next year first and then we start with the next year's plantation. I was surprised to see full grown green trees right up to the top of mountains and I remembered the Tree plantation programmes in India. We just publish photographs of tree plantation every year, we resolve to plant millions of trees every year but never care for them later on, never care how many trees survive and do not compensate the loss by planting the same number of trees. We plant trees in the same trenches every year.

Hong Kong was under British rule and it was freed around 2000. There are many nice things about Hong Kong and their laws and regulations are remarkable. People follow all rules and are very disciplined. There are no thefts of any kind. Thus we completed our tour of China and Hong Kong.

AUSTRALIA

We had some study tours as well in which we visited America, Australia, England and such other educationally advanced countries. We visited four universities in Australia including important universities in Perth, Melbourne. We had ourselves

designed the tour programme. Principal Chitnis took the lead for the Australian tour and we could participate in some seminars there. We could discuss with Professors and Departmental heads and had a good exchange of information and knowledge during the tour. When we reached Melbourne, it was 7 pm and the city was fully closed. Nothing was available. The city is highly disciplined. If you see, Australia has so much land and so little population and is endowed with rich natural resources. One day we had a helicopter ride and we visited a place to see penguins. Around sunset thousands of penguins come out of the sea and go to their nests where they hide their young ones. It is a very wonderful sight and thousands of tourists from all over the world come to see this spectacle.

Australia also gets very cold. A friend of Chitnis Sir from Sri Lanka had arranged dinner for us in a 7 star hotel. We met some Indian students there. We were staying in a rented apartment. We were sharing all jobs such as cooking food for ourselves, cleaning the utensils etc. In every such trip Principal Babasaheb Sangle, Professor Arun Gaekwad were always there. In all these places, bus travel in the city was free of charge. A Government Official had fixed a 7 am meeting for us at a beach hotel. It was quite far from our place. We went there in the dim light of morning hours. We wanted to make some enquiries outside the gate; we saw a man, who sounded like an Indian. He gave us proper, correct information. When we asked him he said that he had opted for a 2 km foot path cleaning assignment. He was studying there as a student and was used to work like this in early morning hours. After touring a number of countries we found a great disparity between other countries and India. Most students in advanced countries work while studying. People there have imbibed the Earn and Learn culture. 99 % of students in India do not do anything like this at all and are wasting millions of man hours. When will we see this happening in India? Neither Universities nor the Government are seen to bring lakhs of people in the main stream of life so far. That is really regrettable.

While in Perth, we came to know that there is a nice seaside Indian restaurant there. The food was totally Indian and there was no one billing the customers. The Hotel is named as 'Annappurna'. Food is served on a 'banana leaf'. Eat whatever you want; only thing is that you keep six dollars in the box. If you want to pay more, you can do so, there are no restrictions. A Tamil person was running the restaurant.

MAURITIUS AND DUBAI

Later we had a tour of Mauritius and Dubai. That time we had Kaka, MLA

Ramesh Wanjale, Manaji Gandhale, Ravi Charwad and Hemant Joshi in our group. This time we were only six members, all from Sinhgad Road. We stayed in Dubai for four days on the way to Mauritius. We had a day tour of Dubai. We saw the famous Sharjah Stadium where many India Pakistan cricket matches were played earlier. UAE is made of three states Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi. These are very small counties but extensive remarkable developments are taking place there in a planned manner. There is nothing but desert in this area. It does not rain for years together but there no power shut offs any time. Sweet drinking water is made from salty sea water and it is amply provided to all residents. There is Monarchy in these states and laws are very strict. Police are authorized to take many important decisions even at lower levels. We were told that even if cases are filed in a court, they are decided within a week maximum. Rules are followed very strictly here. Indians here do not seem to stray from the right path. There are stringent laws for driving vehicles, you cannot drive in an intoxicated state. If one does so, his license is cancelled and even if a family's four generations are living in UAE, they are not given full citizenship. That is why people behave in a straight forward manner. There are no elections and therefore there is no sycophancy.

We saw the King's palace too. It is made very majestically and hundreds of peacocks move freely in the Palace area. We went to the "Safari world" in the afternoon. Cars are driven through huge deserts and sandy hills. We had a thrilling experience as cars drove down top of sand mountains. By sunset we went to a tent camp far way in the desert. You have to wear an Arabian dress there, you enjoy Arabian music, you roast mutton on burning flames like you see in movies and eat food. You move around like an Arab, eat your food together listening to desert music. There are big decorated hookahs kept for those who want to smoke hookah. We returned to the hotel late at night.

"Dubai Festival" is quite famous. We saw the Burj Khalifa Hotel and visited Dubai Festival in the evening. Many countries around the world had put up their stalls in an area measuring few acres. Food from each country was available on sale there along with frequent cultural programmes. A special feature of this country is that they offer various incentives to people from other countries to visit UAE. At that particular time they were offering free bus rides in the city, concessions in air fare etc. Though mobiles were not there, you had very cheap international call facilities. Everything was so cheap during festival time. That is why people from all over the world get attracted there and there is a huge stimulus to the market.

Next day we went to Mauritius. Lying to the East of South Africa, this is a very

quiet island in the Indian Ocean. Very clean blue sea water with no pollution! A lovely green island; that is Mauritius. A remarkable feature of Mauritius is that in many areas of the island they speak Marathi at home. Some people speak Hindi too. Long ago a number of people from Bihar were taken to Mauritius to work as farm labour. The main crop here is Sugar Cane. Wherever you go, even on the hills you see only sugarcane fields. When we went there we saw many statues of a person like we see those of “Mahatma Gandhi” in India. That person was “Ram Goolam” the foremost Freedom Fighter of Mauritius. Our hotel was situated in a quiet beautiful corner of the country. Me and Wanjale used to keep swimming for hours in the Swimming pool while others used to pass their time quietly. One day we went inside the sea in a submarine to see a 100 year old boat sunk in deep seas. The boat was lying at the bottom of the sea just as it was. We saw the huge hulk of the boat and looking at various marine creatures we came out on the surface. We felt suffocated in the submarine. Hemant Joshi was a bit dizzy. On coming out we were scared whether this man will ever get up! Later on we returned to India.

AMERICA

We decided to visit some Universities in America. Chitnis Sir had planned the entire tour. We did the booking ourselves without an agent. We hired suites at many places. As planned we had taken 5kg of packets each containing Indian snacks for the journey. We were six of us on this tour including myself, Principal Chitnis, Principal Nikam, Principal Baba Sangle, Professor Arun Gaikwad and Dhole Patil. We had planned to go to England on the way and halt there for two days. We visited many sights which we had liked in the earlier visit such as the Thames River, The London Bridge. We visited two universities in London and got to know their education system. We visited London School of Economics. We saw Buckingham Palace, various gardens and some other tourist spots. From there we left for America. We reached Washington DC via New York. We stayed there for two days. We saw White House, several Science Museums, a number of presentations of various discoveries etc in Washington. We were quite impressed with the discipline in American life, their ways of driving, their habits of self dependence in almost everything.

At 7 pm we had Indian food and set off to see the Niagara falls. We met a friend of Chitnis Sir. He planned the next itinerary for us and we started a 1200 km journey. We were travelling in a luxurious car. The driver was playing old songs of Mohamed Rafi and Lata Mangeshkar for us. His name was Patel. When we asked we came to

know that he was from Pakistan but he was quite affectionate and nice to us.

We thought that it would take us a long time to go from Washington DC to “Niagara falls”. But with less crowd, beautiful highways and a spacious luxurious car we crossed the distance quickly and reached the destination in the early morning at 5 am. We were told that instead of the main falls we saw another fall at dawn and we were surprised. When it was daylight, we went there again and we were told that the other fall is on the other side. On side of “Niagara falls” there is America while on the other side there is Canada. We saw the greatest and most majestic falls in the world that day with such snow-white water. We went to New York by road via New Jersey. New York is the financial capital of America. There is a large population of Negroes here and chances of theft are quite high. We were cautioned about it earlier. We visited tourist spots such as the Statue of Liberty and so on there.

From here we went to Florida and visited University of South Florida. We had a presentation to make there. Right from the moment we landed to going to the hotel and attending the seminar, every minute was meticulously planned; none of their professors was wasting even a single minute. We had to follow the same discipline. We were given a particular day for the presentation. Each of us was generally given an hour to make the presentation. Our presentation would last for half an hour on which their Professors were explaining what was the situation in America regarding that particular subject. Then we had a question and answer session. Not a single minute was wasted and there was full utilization of time. We do not see such a picture in India at most of the places. While having lunch we were given Chinese food and we were shown on the screen Chinese recipes and information on Chinese food. There was utmost utilization of time.

We saw a building named “Patel Convention Centre”. When we made enquiries we were told that there is a Doctor couple there by the name Patels. They have their own Charter Plane and their own insurance company. He had given a donation of 100 crore Rs to this university. If any student from an Asian country comes to America for education for the first time, he is given accommodation for some time and is provided with full guidance until he gets admission to his desired university. We were lucky to meet such great people here. There are no attendants at any petrol station. Everything is automatic. We are told by some local residents and Mr. Subbarao, a friend of Chitnis Sir that there is a Sardarji in US who owns 4000 petrol pumps in America. Cash is not accepted at the petrol pumps; swipe your petrol card in a machine and fill up that much petrol !

Shri Sagar Dhole insisted on seeing the Engineering Department in that university because he had recently opened a new Engineering College in Pune. Only two of us went there and saw various departments. We did not just see very elegant buildings there but we saw teachers giving practical lessons to students. Practice was given more importance. Another new phenomenon that we observed here was the contribution of past students. Many past students of the department come here and teach which is more useful to students because they come down to the level of students and explain the techniques. You do not see a crowd of non-teaching staff there at all. One or two people manage the entire department. When we looked at the patents received by the University, we found most patents by Indian students only but they were granted in the name of the University.

From there we went to Orlando. Disneyland at Orlando is quite famous. It is such a huge area that it takes one full day to cover it. We saw many adventure games there. But the most remarkable game was that of the 3D show, particularly the aero plane game and the Spider game. We feel as if we are running along with the characters and vehicles in the game. Orlando's Disneyland is the very actual embodiment of deadly fright, thrill and bewilderment!

From Orlando we went to Chicago. We had to reach Indiana police State after Chicago at a distance of four hours. Mr. Sharma, a friend of Chitnis Sir had come himself in his car to receive us. As his wife is from Pune he took us home too several times for dinner very affectionately. He showed us the entire Ball State University. All Universities in America are spread on thousands of acres of land. There are various types of educational centres there. There are places with blue light everywhere. If anyone is in a problem or a difficulty, he has to press a button and immediately a police van arrives there and helps in whatever way. Ball State University is quite large with many of its buildings fitted with "Solar Energy facilities". We saw their Music Centre too. Every student has a different room with a computer. While practicing if there is a mistake the computer displays on the screen what mistakes were made. They have a small and a big stage at their disposal for practice. Most teachers are quite senior and there is no retirement for teachers. Teachers are the first ones to become permanent in their jobs. We saw their MBA department and the Share Market Division. As practical exercises, students buy and sell shares themselves at the centre. The MBA department was so modern which was being looked after by Dean Mr. Sharma.

Here you see a crowd only in downtown areas but outside the city you find many large colonies spread over several acres. You can look at readymade designs of bungalows or any parts thereof in a mall. Then you build the bungalow yourselves.

They give a guarantee of 100 years for such bungalows too. The most important thing is quality, bogus goods are banned immediately. Everything is done automatically. If you have a bungalow in an acre of land, you have to look at the upkeep of grass around and maintain the place clean. If grass grows more than ten inches, you get a notice from the Corporation and you are told to get rid of the grass within a week. If you don't do it, they will send their own people to cut it and send a bill for the same. We saw such discipline in many areas of life there. There are many very big malls. Most of the goods are displayed nicely. They display how even a garden will look like. You will get a custom made garden if you place an order. There are all kinds of packages in the mall. In a section of fans with lights, you will see only fans everywhere. All kinds of malls are seen in this city.

Here agricultural farms are huge, they are spread over miles and miles unlike in India where we have small parcels of farm land. Just one person manages the entire farm. Here they get huge crop of maize every year. Individuals own mile and miles of farms.

Before this we went and saw Chicago city. Chicago; the city where a great saint from India made the whole world know India's greatness about hundred and twenty five years ago. We saw the place where the religious conference was held. The great Saint had just two minutes on the stage and when he uttered the words 'My Brothers and Sisters' there was huge applause in the auditorium. We were greatly blessed to avail darshan of that sacred place.

From there we came to Ball State University, saw the entire facility. After spending three four days we wanted to board our plane for India from Chicago via London. Again the Sharma couple came themselves to drop us at the airport. There was a huge farm on the way. When we enquired we were told that it was a 2000 acre farm with 10000 cows. We decided to have a look at the farm which began just by the side of the high way. They had machines to cut grass. They had created spaces for cows to relax and graze. There was a facility where 100 cows at a time stood on a round platform and were milked with machines. Within one round of the platform each cow used to be milked fully. Just nearby they had the cold storage facility for the milk. Fresh milk was boiled in a tank, then cooled in another tank and used to be filled in huge tankers, doubly longer than those we see in India, to be sent to cities for distribution. Very close to this section there was a production facility for dairy products. Whatever milk remains is sent through pipelines to this factory and food items like ice cream are manufactured there. All salable products are sent to outlets on highways. All cow dung is used to make bio gas there only. Just next there are gas pumps and the biogas is sold

immediately. I had never seen such a wonderful farm in my life.

The Sharma couple went back home after dropping us and we boarded the plane at Chicago for London. At that time there was a storm at Chicago and the weather was a little disturbed. Sharma Saheb narrated an old story to us. An old grandfather from Gujrath had come to USS to see their son and the grand son. After his son and daughter –in-law went out for work, the grandson began making some mischief so the grandson just tapped him on his head. The child phoned 911 immediately and said that his grandfather beat him saying, 'He assaulted me.' The police came and apprehended the old man. When the son came the child told him what happened. He went to the police station and got his father released. The grandfather said to the son, 'Look son, I do not want to see your America nor your jails here. I want to go back to India immediately.' In America, you cannot beat children as punishment.

When we were travelling on the high way we heard police sirens. A police van was coming from the opposite side on the one way road. All high way cars stopped immediately and let the police van go through. It was a wonderful sight to see such disciplined people. After the storm subsided we left Chicago. An hour after the take off, the plane started shaking here and there. The pilot was regularly announcing 'the outside weather is inclement, so do not leave your seat. 'We were worried for at least a couple of hours, but this situation was repeating oft and on during the flight.

We reached London but on another airport. Our next flight was at one another air port an hour apart. The next flight was after two hours. With the crowd on London streets and with such less time left for the flight, it was a worrying situation. Somehow we reached within an hour and fifteen minutes. We showed our tickets and went in. But there was an error on our part. Sangle Sir's ticket was for the evening flight and not for our flight. We tried very hard to change it but it was of no use. We could have incurred a loss if we had changed our tickets. So finally we changed Chitnis Sir's ticket alone for the evening flight. Finally both of them returned by the evening flight but we had arrived earlier.

NEPAL – KAILAS MANAS SAROVAR

One year we decided to go to Kailas Manas Sarovar for availing a Darshan. It is difficult to reach it from India as now it is a part of China. When there was a war between India and China in 1962, China occupied this place and is now in China's possession. Therefore only groups of 100 persons are allowed by Government of India to travel there. Thus it is difficult to get a chance this way. But we came to know that we can go to Nepal and reach "Kailas Manas Sarovar" via Tibet. Nearly 15/20000

Indian people visit this sacred place via Nepal every year. Thus we decided to go via Nepal. Nepal is a totally “Hindu nation”. There are many Indian Pilgrimage centres in Nepal, the most famous being that of “Pashupatinath”. As per the agreement between Nepal and India, Indians do not need a visa to go to Nepal. Even if you have an Indian Voter ID, you can enter Nepal. Earlier, we had made many tours of Indian Pilgrimage centres through “Nana Nani Tours”. This was their first trip here and we decide to go to Kailas Manas Sarovar. This is the ultimate pilgrimage centre as per Hindu religion and it is quite remote and very difficult to access. Before leaving for Kailas, we visited several places in Nepal. We had Agraval Sheth with us at that time. He must have been over 60 years of age. Still he was ready to accompany us through the remote areas. We had more ladies than men in our group. So there was more responsibility on us. From Nepal we reached the China border. Nepal was on one side of the river and on the other side of the river there was a Chinese Military post. As soon as we reached that post, our passports were taken away. A large number of Hindus visit “Kailas Manas Sarovar” every year because it is their Deity. We were not given any visa so as to avoid evidence in any international dispute later on. We were allotted a number each. Every group had 50 people and numbers like 1-2-3-10-20-30-50 were given to each person and his/her baggage. As soon as we entered China the worst experience was that of visiting the toilets there. There was just a 3 foot wall around in the toilet and there were no pots like we have here. Only a trench dug below and so much of accumulated human waste! The worst experience of our life! From there we had to cross difficult hilly terrain in a journey that would take about thirteen hours. For each five persons a separate Toyota vehicle was given with a very adamant and rude driver. We were told not to talk to him during the journey. The drivers will stop at whatever destinations they are given and go wherever they wish to go. No one from us should talk to them and they too will not talk with you. They used to stop wherever they wanted, smoke for some time, wait for some time and would start again. Each halt was planned earlier because it is a Himalayan terrain. After 4 pm the weather can change suddenly and it may start raining heavily. So we had to practice climbing mountains every day right from sun break to sun set. Practice was almost compulsory. Mountains were getting steeper day by day. Air was getting thinner. There are no trees to be seen, everywhere layers of snow and bare rocks where snow has melted. There was less and less oxygen available for breathing. It was so cold that we were advised to wear thermals inside, normal dress, woolen garments and rain suits on top. Despite five layers of clothes, the cold was still biting us. Forget a bath we did not dare wash our face even for a minute. We had to drink warm water. If at all we had to drink plain water it was hurting our lips. Slowly our diet was shrinking. Later we had just soups of a different kind to drink

only. Even if accommodation was provided on the first floor, it was a trying experience to climb ten steps even for young people like us. Later every night. After a few days they were not letting us go to bed without a tablet for thinning the blood. It was so cold that even blood can freeze and one may die too.

There is very scarce population in Tibet. You meet very small villages of just 200/300 people to a maximum of 500 people, at distances of 100/200 km. Mostly the population consists of shepherds, We used to halt at such villages. China has made good planned development at most places. Chinese culture is now well embedded in Tibet. Every small village has a school, a post office, a police station and an army centre. Everywhere you will find the same type of construction. Villages are carefully designed and you can see Chinese dominance everywhere. If the daughter of a Tibetan person marries a Chinese man, his parents are given a monetary incentive. Schools have to use Chinese language. No information about the outside world is allowed through any means. There are restrictions on all newspapers, TV, market place and all media. Thus, an environment is created where they have to do nothing with outsiders. Shops in these villages were quite strange. Right from groceries, vegetables to furniture, machinery and motor cycles everything is sold in the same shop. As there are very large distances between various places, instead of spending so much on transmission wires, solar energy is used on a large scale. All roads are excellently prepared. The entire area is under military control. If you see “Kailas Manas Sarovar” is up in the mountains just 25 km away from the Indian border.

Finally we reached “Manas Sarovar”. They had made arrangements for our stay on the other side of “Manas Sarovar” next to the lake. A Pradakshina or tour around Manas Sarovar measures 60 km so we had to complete it in a vehicle only. There were many Sadhus or sages all over who were completing the course on foot. We found many small ashrams or maths on the way. We were lucky because when we reached there for Pooja, the Sun came out. We had a bath in Manas lake. As it happened, before leaving for

“Manas Sarovar” I was suffering from fistula. I had developed tumours and they used to break open. Doctors had advise me to go for an operation. But I was determined to go for the pilgrimage and was of the view: let whatever happen I must go. But I had a bath in “Manas Sarovar” and miraculously, I was totally relieved of the disease forever. This is my own experience. The water was extremely cold. We went into the water and immersed only our head in the water because it was extremely cold. Twice I got an opportunity to take a bath in “Manas Sarovar”. The Kailas Mountain is about 15-20 km away from “Manas Sarovar” but I have myself seen the shadow of

Kailas Mountain in “Manas lake”. That was also a miraculous surprise.

In the evening we decided to stay at the bottom of “Kailas Mountain” for the night. We were coming down slowly and were getting absorbed with the beautiful environment there. We were trying to adjust with the atmosphere. There was so much shortage of Oxygen there and it took three days to go on foot around the “Kailas Mountain”. A number of people had taken a halt there only and many abandoned the idea of making a “full round or Pradakshina”. We were going from left to right on this route while local Buddhist people were going in the reverse direction. It was a very difficult terrain to traverse. We could hire a horse and it cost 5000 rs per day for a horse. There was no other alternative so we hired a horse. My wife was also with me. We were allowed to take only 5 kg baggage per person. They had given a horse keeper with every horse. Lately things had improved. So the earthen rooms provided to us were not so bad. There was no question of taking a bath. It was unimaginably cold. Every day we got the feeling that we were going to die in that cold. On one side there was this difficult route and on the other side there are huge slopes up and down. At some places downward slopes were so steep that we had to sit down to come down bit by bit. The horsemen would let us disembark and they would meet us on the lower level where we descend. Everyone was given Oxygen capsules. There was one guide walking with a large oxygen cylinder with each group. Thus we completed the Kailas Manas Sarovar pilgrimage. Kailas Mountain is very tall and surprisingly no one has climbed to its top so far. It is said that it is the abode of Lord Mahadeo. The sound of ‘Om’ reverberates among these mountains. The mountain range is shaped like the ‘Pindi’ of Mahadeo. They say that you should make at least one Kailas Manas Sarovar pilgrimage in life. It is believed that many Gods and Goddesses come to this lake for a bath in early morning hours. On the other side of the mountain there is another similar lake for demons to take a bath. But people look at it from a large distance only. It is said that Ravan created this lake for his own bath. While coming down it took only two days. Using good roads and vehicles we travelled the return journey of 1000km. We brought five litres of Manas Sarovar water with us. We were allowed to carry it from Nepal. But when we landed in Delhi, we were allowed to keep only 100 ml of that water and asked to throw away the rest. That is how Indian law works; they will have rules where it is not required and will not apply rules where it is necessary.

SRI LANKA

I had gone to University of Calenia in Sri Lanka for a seminar with Dr. Sanap Sir. We went to Combo straight from Mumbai. It is near to Colombo but outside Colombo city. We attended the programme in the university. I had a lecture in that seminar and I spoke on 'Ancient Relations with Sri Lanka.' Professor Mafa from there is a student of Dr. Sanap. We were staying close to his house in a hotel. Sri Lanka is endowed with great natural beauty, very green like Kerala, lots of forest and rivers and sea on all four sides. A country with land of just 450 x 205 km area. Just before we went there, they had a military operation against Tamil militants, so there was some tension in North of the country. 90 % population in Sri Lanka is "Buddhist". Rest are mostly Muslims or Christians. As we came from India, land of Gautam Buddha we were given a lot of respect. We saw many Buddhist temples and Stupas there along with many ashrams belonging to Buddha Bhikshus. Many children in Sri Lanka fail to get admission to regular schools. So some Ashrams conduct schools. At many places we saw school and college classes being held in the ashrams of these Bauddha Bhikshus. In the whole of Sri Lanka there are only five universities. Those established by the British are still in very good condition and have large campuses. We saw two/three universities there. We had gone there for a week and I had plenty of time. "Sinhali" is the official language of Sri Lanka. Most people do not understand Hindi but most theatres show Hindi films quite often. I saw an Amitabh Bacchan film there with some local children and another film in the local language. We spoke to them about "Ramayan" but they seem to respect "Ravan" more. As many people converted to "Buddhism" later, very few people are aware about Ramayan. They showed us a peculiar mountain range where one hill was full of green trees while the other did not even a blade of grass, it was just pure black rock. It is said that when Hanuman torched his tail and burnt Sri Lanka, the place where Hanuman landed does not grow anything at all. We went to Colombo and saw its cricket ground from far way because an India –Sri Lanka match was in progress at that time. We saw many beaches. We saw the "Gautam Buddha temple" in a remote place. Mafa's friends gave us dinner at his place; they had a music party as well. All houses and bungalows there are quite beautiful. As there are many jungles wood is extensively used in building bungalows. Their currency is in poorer shape than ours. For one Indian rupee you get two Sri Lankan rupees, Therefore everything costs twice as much compared to India. A feature of their economy is that they have to import almost everything from outside. They do not produce anything in the country except agricultural crops. Professors and Doctors are highly respected. If they want to buy cars they get loans at discounted rates. ◆◆◆

CHAPTER 14

TOURING AROUND IN INDIA

I have toured around quite widely India too. Mostly I used to visit pilgrimage centres in India. I have seen some of the most important and inaccessible holy places in India, be it “Vaishnodevi” from North India or “Char Dham Yatra” in North including Gangotri, Jamnotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath located in remote places in the “Himalayas”. Here too, we experienced the same situation like we did in the “Kailas Manas Sarovar” pilgrimage. I have toured these places twice and enjoyed the beautiful nature across the “Himalayas”. We had gone there with Nana Nani Tours, Most of my destinations comprised of holy places and our groups consisted mostly of elderly ladies. Many young people are not able to take their mothers on a pilgrimage because of their jobs. There, I took upon myself the responsibility of the son and I took these old mothers on various excursions. Whether it was because of the mother of Additional Commissioner of Police and son of our native place Shri Ashok Morale or the mother of Joint Sales Tax Commissioner of Maharashtra Shri Subhash Morale, I took so many senior ladies on these holy tours and I could fill the void created by my mother’s absence. My mother expired when I was in the 9th standard and I did not get an opportunity to serve her which I had always regretted. We went for the “Char Dham Yatra” in the North. This is a very difficult journey. From Pune we went to Delhi by train. From Delhi we went to Haridwar by road. It was quite a long tour for nearly three weeks. We halted twice at Haridwar. We performed “Ganga Arati” in the evening. This is a very beautiful ceremony when thousands of devotees gather for the Arti and have a ‘holy bath’ in Ganga river. From there we went to Yamnotri via “Joshi Math”. This is a difficult journey because these are spread out pilgrimage centres in deep valleys of the Himalayas. The river “Yamuna” originates at “Yamnotri”. As there are difficult mountains and deep ravines everywhere, and as the Himalayan rock is brittle, there are frequent landslides here. You never know when a boulder might fall and the road would get closed. There are many moments when you are scared for your life. At many places there is a single road and many vehicles get stuck when there are

landslides. We were lucky enough because though we were stuck for a couple of hours at a few places, we escaped days and days getting trapped here. Out of these, for two pilgrimage places you need not take a horse. But for going to “Jamnotri”, you have to cross a 9 km distance astride a horse on a narrow road. If the horse slips by any chance, you fall in a valley so deep that no man can survive and even the dead body would not be found anywhere. The road is carved out of sharp cliffs and mountains. Not being habituated to ride a horse, the skin gets bruised all over and you go through a serious ordeal. This place is located in such treacherous surroundings. Many roads in Himalayas are closed from 7 pm to 7 am. You travel the entire day but you can hardly cover 100-150 km per day. Buses however, ply for 8/10 hours a day. Drivers from our area will never be able to traverse such difficult terrains with so many ups and downs and landslides. On one side of the road there is a sudden deep vertical valley! Always there is tension in the air. We went to Gangotri and Badrinath too in this manner but the road to Kedarnath was again quite difficult. You have to travel 14 km up and down on a horse. Five years ago this entire area was washed away in rains. The residential place where we had stayed earlier too was washed away, not a single brick or stone is remaining at the site now. We saw the ancient “Ajab Mandir” there and had a rare Darshan of the Deity.

On return we halted at “Joshi Math” where there is a “Shankaracharya Ashram”. We went to the Ashram and had Darshan of Shri Shankaracharya. We had an opportunity to speak to him and we participated in a bhajan recital with him too.

We did a pilgrimage of “Vaishno Devi” and “Jammu Yatra” too. Devotees climb the mountain at night for the Darshan of Vaishnodevi. We climbed 12 km on foot and returned in early morning hours. Shardul was quite young at that time but he too climbed the whole distance. While returning it was very early in the morning and he was tired and feeling sleepy. So halfway we called for a horse. Next day we had to get our legs massaged by a local expert; we could not walk straight for two days. We saw “Harisingh Palace” at Jammu too.

Once we had gone to Kashi. At that time too, we had many senior ladies and gentlemen with us. We got the Darshan of “Kashi Vishveshvar”, We had “Buddha Darshan” at “Uttar Kashi” which is also called as “Bodh Gaya”. It has very beautiful surroundings. We saw Bodhi Vriksha, the tree under which Gautam Buddha received enlightenment.

We saw Lord Rama’s Ayodhya and availed Darshan of “Ramlalla”. It has taken 100 years to build a temple where Rama was born. We witnessed this tragic situation created by our politicians.

We saw the magnificent Wonder of the World: Taj Mahal! Really an astonishing Wonder of the Universe in our own country! Its construction, its beauty is eternal as originally it was. This is really a miracle in marble.

Once we had gone to Bhuvaneshwar. We saw many temples there. We saw “Jagannath Puri”, Mahadeo’s large temple. We saw the iron pillar installed by “Shivaji Maharaj” at the entrance of the temple. We saw the Sun temple and how it was damaged by the British. In order to see how an idol can float in air, they brought down its top and smashed half the temple. The famous wheel of Sun’s Chariot can be seen here. It gives us the message ‘Chalte Raho!’

Once we went to see “Kanya Kumari”. The beautiful monument of “Swami Vivekanand” is built so wonderfully on a big rock in the sea.

Then we saw the “Balaji temple”. The beauty, elegance, brilliance of the shrine, the crowd of devotees and the inspiration from the Deity – everything is mind boggling. We saw “Kalki Avatar”, Ashram of Amma Bhagavan which is near Chennai. On our return path we saw Hyderabad and the big studio there. This vast beautifully built studio is spread on a wide area. We were wonderstruck looking at this studio which is called Ramoji City too.

We saw “twelve Jyotirlingas” situated in different locations I India. Over last few years we went to see Dwarka, Mathura and several pilgrimage centres in Maharashtra. I have refrained from giving a large description here because we should not stray from the main topic.

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CHAPTER 15

OUR BUNGALOW AT VADJI

“Vadji” is my native place, my Karmabhumi for many years! I had a thought that I should give all our family property and the houses I built to my brother and I should buy another independent plot and construct a new Bungalow. At that time we had two houses in which my two brothers were staying. I was living comfortably at my in-law’s place. But when I think of something, I try to implement it. Probably there are some premonitions behind every thought that comes to your mind. The future is embedded in thoughts of today. I had bought Namdev Anna’s place. A price of five thousand Rs was agreed upon at that time. In fact I had given most of this money for the treatment of his son and other expenses but had nothing in writing. Namdev Anna expired later on. Madhavrao talked to his son and agreed on a price of 50,000 Rs per guntha again. I paid one lakh Rs and got the place under my name. His sons took away all the Eucalyptus trees on the site and all the big stones that remained there. Really speaking, once you sell the land there is nothing to argue about. But sometimes, your good nature can cause you substantial loss. I had met Tarachand, the brother of Namdev Anna’s sister-in-law earlier. We have two properties in common with his and our relatives. When I asked whether I should take these places, he said, ‘Both these places fall in our share of the property. You can buy the plot in front of the school. ‘Only After this talk, I bought the place. But the sister-in-law took the dead body of her husband to that plot and claimed ownership of the place. She started speaking ill of me with every one she met, saying, ‘We have been wronged, our land was taken away forcibly’ and so on. In fact that land which was bought after due discussion would not have fetched even 10,000 Rs. per guntha then. We were harassed though we had bought the land at five times this price. For five years they were making loud propaganda against us. That’s how the story of our Bungalow began.

Dhaknes had a place of two gunthas just next to my plot. Their property was divided in to two; the elder brother got the house in the town and the vacant plot came to the younger brother. The younger brother Ramu was after me for six months. He

was approaching several people to convince them for buying his land. When he met me he was ready to sell the entire land. I said, 'I was not willing at the moment. Your elder brother is slightly demented. Unless the family members agree, I will not buy the property. Finally I paid some more money and bought just one guntha of his land. While making the deed I wrote the whole land and still I allowed my elder brother to build his house in half the area. I said, it is okay because my father and Gorakh Dhakne had good relations with each other. I told them to keep one guntha vacant for me because I do not want to build anything there; I want to keep it for parking. There were two plots next to mine. One guntha belonged to Dhakne and one guntha with encroachment belonged to Bansibhau. My grandfather used to tell us that that place was our family's dumping ground. Slowly they grabbed the land, built a hatched house first, then a simple house and later a well built house. As ours was a large family and the place was not so big, everyone ignored this matter and this plot went to them. Me and some of my people agreed to give them an alternative place and to build a house upon it too. We had a meeting at Sudan Patil's place. I was forced to buy a plot of one guntha at three lakh fifty thousand rupees when the actual price at that time would be just ten thousand rupees with a 7/12 extract for two gunthas. You will never find such a land deal anywhere. But some people intervened and did not let this deal go through too. They were bent upon not giving me the land and were working to this plan.

At the front end there was a plot belonging to Bansibhau Morale with a temporary construction. Some relatives told him too that they will get the place in his name and build a house for him. But a number of people opposing such arrangements were successful in their efforts.

As a matter of fact I was willing to pay a much higher price for that land but my efforts failed. In fact both of them were not in a good financial position. I managed their children's education with minimum expenditure and got them Nursing Education with loans. I arranged to get them job, but without any feeling of gratitude they began acting against me. Finally I thought: when am I going to live in this village? The house will always be vacant. Let me build in whatever land I may get.

Ramesh was going to his bungalow. I told him to build mine too along with his house. With great enthusiasm and far more efforts than mine, he completed the bungalow. Our three floor 4000/5000 sq ft Bungalow was now ready. This was possible only because of Ramesh. But as my own brother and my brother-in-law did not get an opportunity to build a house, their bitterness was seen in their actions later on.

I had solved two problems. Half the place near Dhakne's plot which was bought at five times the price was returned after a compromise. There is some mischief

mongering going on about the remaining place, even now. That is how the village life is! My father's friend Jhabunana had a plot in the vicinity. I had told Ramesh to make a compound first, because people create problems later on. Finally the same thing happened. When he had just three feet of land, he built a house along the wall of my house and constructed a toilet wall for his house just next to the water tank of my bungalow. In fact my elder brother Babu was telling me that he would stop him but I thought that he was Dada's friend, he will be quite honest with us. But he too did the same thing; he grabbed an area of 60x3 from our plot and did not let pipelines of our bungalow enter his side. We had to bring those pipelines from the first floor. This was about three sides but what about the fourth side? The place at the backside belonged to a local leader Shiva. It was just a barren land but a five foot corner belonged to Avdabai. In actual fact, I had left a three foot distance on all sides during construction. But ignoring that, they built walls there while blocking our windows. In fact I had helped Avdabai with 35,000 Rs. to buy her tractor in those times. She returned the money without interest slowly over two years but she had no gratitude at all. Really speaking, all these neighbouring people were not very important at all. But here people like us are treated so badly, what to say about treatment to poor people? Our Bungalow was ready. We wanted to perform a pooja but, my elder brother Madhukar fell sick and expired after three months. After that you do not perform any pooja for one year therefore pooja is still pending. Now three years have passed since then but still I am not finding an auspicious time and mood for the pooja. I had such a terrible time building the bungalow; but all the same, a nice big house came up in our village. All those passing by will remember me because of my house and I am happy and satisfied with that feeling.



CHAPTER 16

A DREAM FOR MY NATIVE PLACE

I am very much attached to my native place 'Vadji'. I was working day and night to develop my motherland. I was well settled in Pune. So I thought that should develop various enterprises and other things in my village, My father-in-law had expired and my brother-in-law has still in the village. With a view to do something good for him, I decided to open a school and a marriage hall at the village. I do not know if he had planned to cheat me right from the first day but it appeared so because of his actions. When the sale deed was to be made it was to be in the name of both of us. But there also he cheated and put his name alone in the deed. He told me that he would combine three acres and give the land for the school. But that place was one km long and 25 feet wide in which one could really do nothing. Such a narrow downgrade strip of black soil land for a school, that too with so much cheating after so much waste of time! Later I spent almost the entire amount for the building until it was completed. I did not have an inkling about this and I never thought that my own brother-in-law would cheat me so much. Afterwards there were some disputes about the land. On neighbor just grabbed that land and he had taken seven lakh R for the deal from me only. He got the deed in his name. When that plot went into road widening scheme, it fetched about 27-30 lakh Rs. He never accounted for it . Instead in the name of Gram Panchayat he began quarreling with me and stopped talking to me even.

There too I had opened a school. I had spent a major portion of the expenditure. I had taken out a loan for the construction. I spent all the money for benches, buses etc. They invited us for various programmes in the school for two years but later stopped inviting us.

I had grown a banana plantation on 10/12 acres of land by building a pipeline, a water tank and made a compound for it. I must have spent about 12-14 lakh Rs for

the purpose at that time. They did not let me have any income from it. My dream of developing “Vadji” was shattered by him though I spent lakhs of Rs. for his prosperity.

I took care of my brother-in-law in Pune for many years. I loved him more than my real brother but he was never grateful. I did not expect anything from him. But I feel very sad about the way he behaved, the way he ill-treated me and tried to defame me.

My father-in-law was a saintly man. Though people talked ill of him he loved me more than his son and I too loved him so much. He was very outspoken. He would speak the truth and that is why people did not like him. But he was a simple man. He and me had dreamed to build something big in Vadji. But I stopped this effort because of my brother-in-law. I thought it was better to avoid him than get into so much trouble. He may not return my money amounting to lakhs of Rs. we can ponder about it later on but let there be no conflict. So I have been still waiting.

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CHAPTER 17**BHAUJI**

Though I had a job, my salary was inadequate. I had so many challenges in front of me. But I never begged to anybody. I never cheated anyone, I never had a desire for ill gotten money and I have never strayed from the right way. When Bhauji came to Pune to our place I really served him in many ways. I used to feel happy to be of use to him. His daughter would not enter a toilet if it was dirty. But I cleaned the toilet myself. I never thought that I am a Professor, how can I clean a toilet. I used to feel happy when I went to his place too. I was never an emotional person, I was always thinking practically and would think of his benefit only. I used to share my joy and sorrow with him. Even if circumstances were not good I never worked for my individual gain. I did so much for his good. He wanted to build a nice bungalow in Pune. H. R. wanted to build a house. But he did not know anything about construction. Therefore I called Bhauji myself and built that bungalow. But my brother thought that I would make some money in this job. So he created some suspicion about me in others' mind. He would always see to it first how my name would be spoilt and how our relations would get disturbed further. I am quite sure about this.

Bhauji's wife is my cousin sister but I never treated her distantly. I loved her more than my own sister-in-law. I never let her down. I forgot that I was a Professor and I served them like a college attendant. I never had any alienation with them. Some people had invested money in my construction business, particularly in the building I did with Kapre. Kapre and Shinde created false accounts and made me pay for a loss of 45 lakh Rs. I paid all that money. Still I repaid the entire capital to Bhauji. I could not give any profit on that money. When he wanted money for his flat I sold a plot at a loss of 20 lakh Rs. so that he could pay his dues in time. I never thought about my own loss.

I had helped him buy a place at Charwad. Later I came to know that there are some issues with that place. One year was lost in "litigation" and trying for a compromise in courts. A public notice was given. A compromise was agreed upon

and 25 lakh Rs. were already given. I knew the complications in land purchase deals. I wanted everything clear about the land otherwise people would have blamed me. I decided to do the sale deed after everything was clarified. But one day suddenly there was a call from Bhauji saying that the deal was being delayed too much and we should cancel it. People here are not very nice particularly in monetary matters. Now a public notice was already there, the agreement was finalized and 25 lakh Rs. were already paid. Now if the deal is canceled and if advance amount given earlier is lost, what do we do? I felt very bad. I went to Charwad and requested him; I told him that Bhauji wants to cancel the deal. As I had good relations with him, I could get him agree to repay the amount slowly. He paid me 20 lakh Rs. and I gave that money to Bhauji too. But the cheques for five lakh Rs he gave me were dishonoured. To date he has not paid me those five lakh Rs. That is what he owes me. In fact I have not benefitted a single rupee from him. I have not spent a single rupee belonging to him. Why only his money, I have not used anyone's money ever and never had any intentions to do so. But he stopped talking to me. I found out a place for him for his factory. If I had met Nikam myself I would have saved him another ten lakh Rs but there too he was in a hurry and completed the sale deed. My sister talks ill about me to other people but those people are good with me. They know me. I feel very bad but how can I create faith in them when these people have already spoilt my impression in their minds. What hurt me most was that they did not give me an invitation card for their daughter's wedding and never invited me for the ceremony. But there is always one regret in my mind that though I never made any mistake with them, when I was the dearest person they had in this world earlier, why do they behave in such a manner? I feel perhaps, God has designed it this way so that something better is in the offing in future. That is the way I console myself. But I pray to God that there should never be such sorry incidents and sad experiences in any one's life. I remember some lines of "Saint Tukaram" here

**You have to suffer dejection and sorrow at times
Perhaps that is the result of Destiny !**



CHAPTER 18**M. I. T. FAMILY**

I came to Pune on 19th June 1986 that decision too was forced upon me. I did not want to come to Pune. Destiny and circumstances brought me to Pune for a job. Earlier I was told that M. I. T. College was held in the premises of “Shri Shivaji Maratha Society” only. The college was shifted to Kothrud in the same year that I joined my college. I was looking for people from our native area or some relatives so that I could visit them in my free time and have a friendly chat at times. I knew that Dr. Vishvanath Karad is a distant relative of mine, so I got in touch with him. I used to see him under some pretext or the other. I used to respect him greatly because of his work, honesty, hard work and Saint like attitude. A simple Professor can create such an educational empire in this citadel of knowledge like Pune City! Therefore I felt quite a bit of pride for him and unknowingly I began to feel that I should also do something like this. I must treat him as my idol and I began following him. For nearly three years I was going to M. I. T. daily. After my college I used to go there. At that time Mangesh Bapu was also in our college. Slowly I developed friendship with him, we had close relations. Mangesh Bapu was following in the footsteps of Senior Karad Sir. He was working very hard and very sincerely on a large scale. Bapu had great faith in Senior Sir. I really appreciated his kind nature. For over 25 years I have never missed Senior Sir’s birth day on 3rd February. Even if I had to go out of Pune I would return late in the evening and convey my best wishes to Sir. There I could meet so many friends, acquaintances and so on.

I worked for many years with Mangesh Bapu in the University. Many people tried to create a rift between us but I never budged an inch from my position. Once, Bapu was contesting a “Management Council election”. Some people purposely separated us. We formed a panel I was the “dean” of the Commerce faculty in “Pune University” at that time. The opposite party told me not to canvas for Bapu promising that they would elect me unopposed. They showed me the withdrawal for of my opponent also. I said to them, “You may give me whatever post you want but I am firm on my position.

I will not fall prey to any temptation.” And I proved my point. I lost that election by 4 votes but I never let my faith in Bapu suffer. Later Bapu used to invite me without fail for all important functions and programmes. We became closer to each other and there was increasing warmth between us day by day.

When I went to see Senior Sir at his house, Rahuldada was quite young. Now he has become a successful “Director of the Institution”. He possesses excellent qualities such as new ways of thinking, he conducts extensive programmes at National and International levels with solid planning and careful attention to financial matters. Rahuldada has really expanded the organization and converted the institute into a University in the footsteps of Senior Sir. We became close to each other through “National Teacher’s Congress”. I see some very admirable qualities in Rahuldada such as respecting others’ opinions, using good qualities of others for benefitting the Society and son. I see a great future for him.

I had visited Sir’s house many times. But both senior and junior aunties never let me leave without food, they treated me well like a child. I will never forget this homely culture seen at their house.

With our experience at M. I. T., I requested Mangesh Bapu to open another institution ourselves. With his help, we held several meetings and constituted a good body including Advocate B.E. Avhad as Chairman, Dr. Vishvanath Karad as Executive Chairman, I as Secretary, Mangesh Bapu as Treasurer, Advocate S.E Avhad and Khade Saheb as members. We named the institute as “Indian Institute of Technology”. Advocate Jagdish Mulik had promised to give us an acre of land at Vadgaon Sheri as donation too. We had such great people on the committee but we could hardly meet together. Finally we decided to run a computer class in the afternoons at B.E. Avhad Sir’s classes. We ran it for one year. There was an incident which I remember here. As the computer would have occupied some part of the classroom, it was decided to keep it in the balcony. For this it was decided to put a grill on balcony and fix glass inside the grill. The Institute had that much money in the account. If we had to meet Senior Sir we had to take an appointment and wait for two/three hours. I put myself in the waiting list and met Junior Sir and told him the purpose of my visit. He said that at that time he was taking the class. ‘Senior Sir does not look after this class any more. It is our property. Why are you spending your money on this, I will get it done. You may go now.’ Junior Sir got that job done himself. After six months Senior Sir came to know about this. He called me and took me left right and centre saying, ‘You are conducting a class in my place free of cost and getting it repaired from Junior Sir without telling me.’ I tried to explain to him that I had actually tried to meet him and

Junior Sir himself undertook to get the repairs done and he told me to go back.' But he was in no mood to listen and said that he would tell Bapu to shut the class for ever. I was helpless. I came back terribly insulted. But I did not take that insult affect me. I was treating him as my Guru and guide, my idol. Before this I had a similar experience with Senior Sir regarding a telephone connection. I thought that plants do not grow under the shadow of a big tree so I must open my own institute. Perhaps God may have told him to behave like this so that I would open my institution inspired by this insult. Finally I did open an institute and made it very successful, His actions were the inspiration behind this success. ◆◆◆

CHAPTER 19

ORGANIZATION

I was quite active in many organizations since my childhood. I was an office bearer in some organizations or a member in some other organizations. But I was always keen on working hard with honesty in any institution. From childhood, I followed this principle throughout my life. We were in a very poor financial state earlier. I was running “Krantiveer Organization” since I was 13/14 years old but I never touched the organization’s money. I used to keep the accounts but money was kept by someone else. I have retained this virtue even now. Never touch any Society money or funds of the Organization. Instead try to put as much you can in the Organization’s coffers. You have to keep in mind that social service is the main motive and work hard while running any organization. I worked in Krantiveer Gram Vikas Sanstha for over 25 years, I was the Chairman also for some time.

I came to Pune. For the first two/three years I was trying to see if I could go back to Barshi and settle there. But many of my friends were opposed to my leaving Pune. Finally I was getting used to Pune. Initially I went to stay at the “Khot Chawl” in Vadgaon Budruk on Sinhgad Road. It used to be very old in Pune in those days. Earlier I was living in the city and in a wall-bound closed building, so it was less cold there. But I still remember the night I came to stay in the “Khot Chawl”. The room had Shahbad tiles on the floor and it was getting too cold at night. The room had a very primitive door. I had just a thin carpet and a shawl with me which was quite inadequate. I poured Jowar from a bag on the floor and just rushed into the empty jute bag for warmth. I could not sleep the whole night. Next day I bought some warm clothes. That is a memory I cannot forget. Slowly I gave up the thought of leaving Pune. Initially many people were scaring me saying that in this institution they just dismiss many employees. I was never worried because I was working honestly in a good manner. After two years everyone got orders for permanency in jobs except me. At that time Satav Saheb was the Secretary of the Society and Anna Saheb Patil was the Vice Chairman. I met Satav Saheb. I told him the whole story. He is from Karmala.

When he heard that I am from Barshi, he told the office to give me the order too. Thus I was made permanent in the job. I had always seen an atmosphere of suspense in that Society. I was always participating in different movements, so I was getting restless. Professor Bhosle was issued a memo. He was in a poor financial state at that time. Then he had just become a father of twins. He himself was admitted in a hospital and the Principal continued to harass him. He said, "Let us go to an Organization of Backward Classes. There I met Dr, Khandagale for the first time, I also met Professor Bengale. Both of them were doing good work for that organization at that time. They were fighting strongly against injustice. I too worked as an Office Bearer of the organization for 15/20 years with them. Later there was a rift in the Backward Classes. Everyone was opening a new organization and working in his own way. Everyone claimed that that his organization was the best. Thus there were so many differences and four/five organizations for backward classes came into existence in Pune. I never wanted to remain in an environment with disputes. I did not like such divisions and the battle of supremacy at all. Slowly I withdrew my interest in that organization, I got busy with many other activities and businesses, so I stopped working for that group.

I worked for the Professors' Organization also for many years. In Pune Professors had an organization called 'PUTA' while out of Pune "PUCTO" was the active organization. I worked there for many years. Later I found that some people were trying to dominate over others, they were not letting others lead nor work properly in the organization. As I found no scope there, I reduced my participation in their activities. Later this organization almost became extinct, I had become a Principal so I began working for the Principals' organization later on. A College Principal is the interface between the Government, Education Society, teachers and students. My firm view is, if he is strong, the college can run well otherwise its reputation can start declining. I thought that I must join this organization to look after interests of college principals and I began working in that direction. We have a Principal's organization in each University and there is an organization covering all of them at Maharashtra state level. There too I saw people fighting for supremacy. I saw people who attached more importance to the position than actual work. Only some particular Principals and office bearers were seen working for the organization. When I joined, Principal Nikam and some of his principal colleagues from other Universities were doing good work. But these senior people never created a second rung of office bearers. I do not know if that was neglected because of pressure of work. But I think that was a blunder by the 'Principals' Organization. I am afraid, the Organization itself may face extinction soon. As the tenure of a Principal is now fixed at five years, newly promoted Principals do not seem to be interested in the Organization. There are many Principals who attend

the Organization's programmes just for name's sake. At present, I am the "Secretary of Pune University Principals Forum" and "General Secretary of Maharashtra State Principal Organization". But I am not happy with the work being done. Some people seem to be working to create a atmosphere in the organization where you cannot do any good work. Therefore I am thinking of waiting for some more time before giving up this task. Normally I do not accept defeat in any challenge whatsoever. If there is resistance, my determination is aroused and I begin working at double the speed. At such times I have shown how I can achieve impossible tasks. Here some people close by seem to be creating difficulties, they seem to think that the other party does not know. But I have a regret. I have some friends who travelled to Aurangabad in my car but did not vote for me. I lost the election by just one vote.

For the first twenty five years, the earlier body had not never worked on the Organization's documentation. The organization got some land from the Government but, that too was not registered in its name at the Charity Commissioner's office. Audit was not done for twenty five years. There is an election of office bearers every year, but there are no reports available for 15/16 years together. I had good relations with the Charity Commissioner's office. So with their help I completed all documentation that was necessary. But no word is spoken about that in any open forum, no credit should be given to me and no cooperation would be extended to me! To date I have not received a single paper, not a single report, not a single meeting register. I have been the Secretary for three years now but, I have not received the Charge even now. I shall always regret this fact. But I am waiting because I want to save the organization and see that the building comes up on the plot. I have registered an Organization on the national level. Instead of working here, I would rather begin to work on that platform.

I came into contact with many principals in Maharashtra because of the Organization. We wanted to open an organization for OBCs and work for it. Principal Dr, Thatavde from Nagpur was working in this direction and it was decided to form a Pan Indian "OBC Organization". I have done all the work for registration of this Organization and now it is functional. I am the Vice President for entire India. So far four large scale conventions have been held. We have worked for many missions such as increasing the scope of Creamy layer of OBCs in Mantralaya, building an OBC hostel in each district and several other important issues through this organization and we are continuing the good work.

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CHAPTER 20

UNIVERSITY

All our colleges fall under Pune University, now called as Savitribai Phule Pune University. After I joined the college, I had not come in contact with the University for the first 5 / 7 years. If we had any work in the University, I used to take a clerk with me to the University and get the work done. Dr. Baba Saheb Sangle used to contest every election and use to canvas in our college every time. Dr. Batule from Shahu College also used to contest elections and visit our college for canvassing. I decided to contest an election in the University and work there. I stood for a seat on Business Law Board and got elected there. I had the capacity to become the Chairman, but Principal Surayavanshi was Senior to me so I made him the Chairman. I learnt everything from him only. Next year, I became Chairman of Business Law Board; thereby I also became member of Academic Council and Faculty member by default. I thus got an opportunity to serve in the University. That same year, Baba Saheb Sangle had contested the election for Deanship in the University. It was a very keenly contested election. I had taken on the responsibility of canvassing for Baba Saheb. I got a realistic experience of how and how much people in different fields in the University lie to each other and how they vote. Baba Saheb lost just by one vote because some strong candidates were in the opposition. A person from Hire College became the Dean. We learnt our lesson and began to work very hard. Let it be anybody's work, we used to do it very honestly, did not expect even a drink of tea from him. We worked for all the people. We were very committed and worked sincerely. After five years again there was an election and we put up Dr. Baba Saheb Sangle again in the election. That was a also a very tough contest. But we had worked hard for all the people during the preceding 5/10 years, so we had very strong backing of people. A number of Professors were on our side. We won this election by a big margin. As we had the entire faculty with us, we could work very well for all the people. We made everyone participate in our work. In the next five yearly election, they selected me as candidate for 'Deanship' and I won with a good majority. After I became the Dean I got excellent experience of all types of activities in the University because a

Dean is involved in almost every matter concerning the University. The 'Dean' has a wide range of responsibilities including appointing staff for examinations, making a panel for setting question papers, ensuring smooth conduct of examinations and getting all papers checked, if there are any wrongdoings in the examination process, penalize guilty parties through the misconduct committee, deciding on annual holidays, appointing members on various committees and so on. As I worked very sincerely in all sections of the University for five years, I got an all round experience in this period. I could be of some benefit to people from all the faculties. I worked selflessly, honestly and in a morally upright manner. Therefore the opposition had nothing to argue about my candidature in the election. I have great pride in the fact that I could contribute so well in the University.

I came into contact with many people in the University and I got to know their real nature. I got to know achievements of some people. Learning from them I could form an independent identity for myself. I was fighting for the good of everyone all the time. It is regrettable that people forget the oath 'Dharmam Char' (Follow the right path) and 'Satyam Vad' (Speak the Truth) that is uttered during the convocation ceremony. I had good relations with many Vice Chancellors and office bearers in the University. Mainly I remember Vice Chancellor Shri Narendra Jadhav during whose tenure I became an office bearer. I learnt from him how to be in the forefront always and I was inspired to see how a common man could progress so much in life with knowledge and hard work. Dr. Chahande was In Charge for some time later on. I learnt passion for knowledge and forthrightness from him. Shri. Arun Adsul was at the helm for some time from whom I learnt frankness while I learnt calmness. From Dr. Gade I learnt how to carry out our job very calmly. He taught me how to listen to everyone patiently and do the right thing after careful thought. Lately I have been in frequent touch with Dr. Karmalkar because in his tenure I became a member of the Management Council. I learnt the virtue of modesty from him. I learnt how to face whatever comes your way, very calmly.

I have met some very sincere officers working with real passion. Officers like Bhau Bhadkavde, Patil and others did many splendid jobs in the University. I have seen with my own eyes how a good officer like Dr. Chavan from the examination department became a victim of the system. I had some bitter sweet experiences in the election for the management Council. Right from the time I was a member of the teachers' organization, I was quite proud of the organization. Even when I became a Principal, I used to approach the teachers' organization for requesting their support in every election. I asked for their support and a ticket for the first election. I was refused a ticket but still, I got elected. For the second election for Deanship, I requested support from the Professors'

organization. Here too I was not given support. I was always requesting office bearers of the organizations to support me at least once, but I never got their support. But before this election, they forcefully found a candidate to stand against me in the election for 'Academic Council'. All of them were united in not letting me win the election. But I had done such good work in the University and won countless supporters in all three districts. I was elected by the widest margin. In the election for 'Management Council' however, the Professors' organization gave me support at the last minute and I won unopposed. Hon, Mrs. Sunetratai Pawar too got elected unopposed from the constituency reserved for Women. Before this, no candidate had won unopposed in this election. I thus got elected on the highest body in the University. A number of people helped me to get elected and they included mainly Dr. Mahesh Abhale and Shri Pande Sir.

It is with some regret that I have to say here that if a man is superior, righteous, honest and if he is not pressurized by anyone, he is not likely to be supported by many important people. The same thing happened in my case too. Everyone is afraid that this man is of an independent nature; he will not listen to me, will not be pressurized and will not work as per what we say. I have always suffered in life because of this. Be it University or be it politics, all people who were close to me just made use of me for their own benefit. They would say No if I wanted to stand for an "election". I had the worst experience in politics. I would canvas for them but they would give a ticket to someone else. So be it! But I feel that God might have something else in mind and he might have wanted me to do something better. Therefore God may have kept me away from such politics. I have all necessary qualities required in a politician, namely personality, monetary backing and elocution skill. But I shall regret the fact that no one ever considered these qualities to give me a push in politics.

I speak out my views fearlessly and honestly even in the University. Some people do not like it. I have no selfish interest in anything and I do not ask for any personal favours. I speak and put forward only whatever is public interest. I feel it is my primary duty to consider the welfare of all sections for which I was elected. But many do not like such a person. They want biased sycophants who would just tow their line without giving any thought to what is right and wrong. This is definitely not right and I experience this at every step in life.

I think that Vice Chancellor Dr. Umarani caused maximum loss to people on our side. After he was given charge, he sided only a particular group and appointed those people only on various committees. He carefully avoided people from our group. He was a sweet talker. I do not like to leave Pune, so he would put me on an outside Committee. Later he would put on record that I refused a post on the Committee. I

know these things from the time I became a 'Dean'. In fact, when I was a student and Professor at Barshi, he was also there. He was a Professor at Shahu College. I went to his college first after I became the Dean. But my apprehension came true 100%; there is no doubt that he behaved in such a difficult manner.

For nearly 8/10 years I worked as a representative of owners of many institutions on the Nursing Council. There too I experienced the same thing. Only such people as I described above are given importance and official posts. People are afraid of honest, outspoken, capable and knowledgeable persons and therefore they would be happy to just show outwardly respect from a distance. For the "Nursing Council election", entire Maharashtra was one constituency. There was just one post for institutional owners and everyone voted. But I won that election too and tried to perform the best to my ability. ◆◆◆

CHAPTER 21**FRIENDS**

When I came to Pune, I came into contact with many kinds of people. But I developed close friendship only with a few special people who affected my life and my thinking process in one way or the other.

I met Raval Saheb in connection with opening a library and he became a close friend of mine. He had served my father too for years together. Our friendship must have lasted at least for 8/10 years. One day, he came to our college and asked for 5000 Rs. He wanted to transfer his wife's property in their son's name and he needed the money immediately. But I did not have that much money then and I could see no way to get it immediately. I was not even earning a good salary then. I was sending whatever money I earned through various occupations of mine directly to 'Vadji' where I was building a temple. I did not have any money really. But he would not listen to me and he went away from me forever. He never came to see me again. In fact I was not to be blamed but that was the truth.

Ubale and Patil saheb also my friends for a long time. We built and ran the "Swargate hotel" together. I really loved Ubale as a friend and he too helped me always. I helped him get a truck through someone. I arranged to get him required amount on loan and I paid the money. He should have paid 13/14 lakh Rs. The matter went to Patil Saheb. He suggested a compromise at 9 lakh Rs. But I did not get a penny out of it. However, I did not leave our friendship. In recent times, his outlook also seems to have changed.

Kaka and me have been friends over 32 years now. He has always done good to me as a well wisher and a sincere friend. Nobody can match him as far as treating a friend with respect and behaving in soft manner. I was in touch with Nana only in matters of educational activities. So I never considered him as a friend.

Baba Saheb Sangle and me was a friendly pair for many years. We worked together for over 25-30 years. My experience with him in University matters was really remarkable. If he suggested something I would say, 'How does it matter?' But whatever he said would happen exactly the same way. He is really brilliant and studies

everything in minute details. It helped me greatly while working in the University.

I became friends with Rajendra Maharaj Yepre because of my interest in spiritual matters. I had arranged his “Kirtan” at the “Shiv Jayanti festival”. In those days, we were organizing various programmes over 10 days on the occasion of “Shiv jayanti”. Later we did many pilgrimages together and were with each other for many programmes. Yepre Maharaj is a continuous stream of spiritual knowledge. Acquisition of knowledge through hard work and achieving desired results is a special attribute of his. A special mention must be made of how he learnt narration of “Shri Bhagavat Katha” on his own. Of course he recites Kirtans very well. He is really adept at imparting knowledge through lectures and inspirational songs on “Shivaji Maharaj”. We can learn so many new things from his lectures. He could certainly be called my Spiritual Friend.

I had professional relations with Shantu Seth, but I realized the extent of his contacts throughout Maharashtra during the election of “Nursing Council” for Maharashtra State. His qualities of analyzing everything logically, considering good and bad repercussions of any action and explaining real facts candidly are really remarkable.

I have been in contact with Dada Saheb Gadekar for the last five years. I look at him as a person of worthy of close friendship. He is quite outspoken but he has extensive experience in property deals. But he has just one shortcoming. He keeps on accepting cases after cases. Naturally, cases accepted in the earlier period tend to get neglected, when I acquired a new institution, he worked very hard for a year or so for getting a loan approved. But he did not succeed. But I could see the intensity of his friendship and friendly affection through his efforts.

Harishchandra Anna and I became friends in connection with a plot of land. But that acquaintance soon turned into friendship. Later he became a Corporator. I donated two statues of Goddess Laxmi, one made of Pancha Dhatu and another of another metal to his temple. With these statues, he could begin his Navaratri festival. For many years now, he has been inviting me for the Navaratri festival without fail. He had completed the temple. But later the temple crown could not be finished because of financial constraints. But I completed the Crown for the temple with my money. Really speaking, such donations should not be publicized. But I felt that he should have displayed a board there showing my donation, because I was not in a position to donate so much at that time. But looking at his sincerity and passion I had given the donation. That regret is still in my mind. The new generation must know how we helped good projects.

I have many friends and I have had many sweet/bitter experiences with them. But in order not to make this book too lengthy, I would rather stop here. ◆◆◆

CHAPTER 22

THE GOLDEN MLA, LATE. RAMESHBHAU WANJALE

Late MLA Rameshbhau Wanjale was my closest friend. One cannot have a better friend than him. He had no expectations from a friend, never looked at a friend's wealth with a selfish interest. Instead he was a true friend who would always seek to help others. He was like the friend described by Ramdhari Sinh Dinkar in his book *Rashmi Rathi*. Lord Shri Krishna himself went to Karna and told him, 'You are the eldest Pandav, let us give the whole kingdom to you, but detach yourself from that Duryodhan.' He defined friendship as Friendship is like an invaluable jewel; wealth whose value cannot be determined. When you have Heaven within reach, why look at the earth?

He was a man who followed this quote very truly. I got introduced to him when I went to invite him for a lecture at Kopre Village on the occasion of "Shiv Jayanti". We were just acquainted then but, gradually we had closer interaction and became very intimate friends. When I took out my passport, we had taken out his passport too. Unfortunately he could not get a visa for UK. When he was asked why he wanted to visit England, he replied that "he wanted to have a look at the country which ruled India for over hundred and fifty years". Because of this answer, he was refused visa and could not come to Europe with us. Therefore we arranged a trip to Far East with him. He is quite jovial and used to keep us in good humour all the time in that trip. Later both his family and mine went for a "tour of Europe". He used to love and adore children. He would give anything or any food items that children demanded whatever the cost. I had never seen such a generous person of whom anyone could be so proud. Once I was driving a car and he was sitting next to me. He looked at my hand and saw that I was wearing a Titan watch. He took it out and tied his own watch on my hand. He never took it back. Later the battery of that watch got finished. Myself and Kaka were in Delhi that time. While looking for a new battery I asked the price of that watch casually. The shopkeeper told me that it was an

imported watch costing 1 to 1.5 lakh Rs. He helped thousands of friends like this.

He used to tell me always, 'You should open large Institutes like Navle Sir's Sinhgad Institutes. I am with you.' He said to me, 'You are making a mistake. Do not waste valuable time in your life by following Kaka and Nana. They will be of no use to you. They will not help you at the time of need'. But I valued friendship more and used to ignore his advice on the matter.

As per his advice, I opened an institute later. Wanjale used to adore and worship Lord Ganapati. When in Pune he never missed to visit "Dagdu Sheth Ganapati temple". Therefore, we named our institute as "Jai Ganesh Educational Foundation". We began with two courses, B.Ed. and D. Ed. And the Institution commenced working. We decided to buy 200 acres of land near his Ahire village close to NDA. We decided to use half the area for educational institutes and the rest for commercial use. We bought 25/30 acres of land too. But around that time elections were declared and the issue of land buying was kept aside. We were doing good property deals and had several land plots ready for property business. But when elections came nearer that was the only thing that occupied our time. I was the Secretary of "Dangat Educational Foundation" too but he never insisted on me to help him in the election and canvas for him. On the other hand, he used to say, 'I know you well. You might think that Dangat may feel bad, but don't worry. Do not canvas for any of us and you need not attend our rallies too. ' But finally what was to happen did happen. Dangat Patil had a misunderstanding. When I told him about this he said, 'Now, even if you lay down your life and try to say the truth, they will not believe it.' And that was what happened later.

Later elections were held. Wanjale got elected. There was a big procession. Some well known judges and lawyers came to meet him. We wanted to meet Wanjale at his place. I phoned him but he said, 'Look, these are far superior people. Let me come home to meet them.' He left the procession midway and came home and met all of us. Then he went back to the rally. Later on he became so famous that every day hundreds of people used to see him and felicitate him. Many people brought their problems to him and he used to solve them just on a phone call. Instead of going to the police or courts, people came to him. He would listen their cases for just two minutes and resolve their disputes. Many other leaders on Sinhgad closed their shop and went to other occupations as they knew that they would not be able to have their way here. If there were any educational queries, he used to hand them over to me.

He conducted many pilgrimage tours for senior citizens caring for them like Shravan Bal. They were given VIP treatment including sealed water bottles, good food, railway tickets, free lodging and so on. Many senior people who were being neglected

otherwise got an opportunity to go these pilgrim centres. Hindus could go to Kashi and Haridwar, Muslims went to the Ajmer Dargah, Buddhists could go to Deeksha Bhumi Nagpur and so on. They were given huge laddoos and a water bottle if they attended any Kirtan. Even students in schools were given quarter kilo laddoos each. He used to think in ways others can never do.

When in a relaxed mood, he used to tell me what one should do to become a big leader and a politician. I used to tell him that one should stay away from Rum, Rummy and Rama. I used to give him examples from history. He tended to agree with me and then he decided to turn to spiritual practices. Slowly he began to recite “Tukaram’s Gatha”. In no time he learnt it by heart. He could give speeches on the topic. He used to recite Geeta very fluently. He looked like a rugged and rough wrestler but he was reciting Geeta so easily. Everyone used to wonder about this. His famous dialogue was, “I look like a villain, but I work like a hero.” People used to applaud his dialogue. His reputation as the “Golden MLA” spread wide and far.

Once while chatting with him he asked me how old I was. I said, “I will be 50 years this June. But I have never celebrated my Birthday.” But, he said, “How come?” Yes, it is true, I had never celebrated my birthday till then. He said, ‘Wait, We will celebrate your Birthday in a big way this year. We shall also felicitate a great personality at the same time. He asked Anna Hazare and he agreed to come. But around that time Anna Hazare had begun the “Ramlila Maidan” agitation on 3rd June. My birth day fell on 6th June. So this birth day was also cancelled. Next year he said the same thing and wanted to invite Anna Hazare again. But this time too Anna went on fast at Delhi and on 10th June Wanjale expired suddenly. I could not believe it. Shardul called me and told me that the news that Kaka was serious is being shown on TV. I had made some phone calls in the afternoon. I talked to Vahini and she also had talked to him earlier. I felt that his death certainly looked like sabotage. All his reports were normal. It is very suspicious that such a robust man dies so suddenly. No one could believe the news. His funeral took place the next day. Shopkeepers shut their shops voluntarily. It was drizzling a bit. Many school children had joined the funeral procession with school bag on their shoulders. Thousands of people joined the procession and a huge crowd came to mourn the leader. The procession on Sinhgad Road was at least 5/6 km long. Prominent leaders from all political parties came to offer their tribute. There was never such a long funeral procession in Pune earlier. It is a pity that such a great man had to leave this earth halfway during his career. I lost a real support in my life and I was orphaned. He was not very old and he had young children. All of them were orphaned. But many of his opponents on Sinhgad Road celebrated the occasion. All of Wanjale’s followers became

CHAPTER 23

LECTURES AND SERMONS

I had given lectures on various topics for many years. I have given lectures on many national leaders and legends like Shivaji Maharaj, Swatantryaveer Savarkar, Mahatma Phule, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Annabhau Sathe, Rani Laxmibai and on important topics such as empowerment of Women. My lectures were widely appreciated. Most importantly, I had made an in depth study of “Adya Kranti Guru Lahuji Vastad”. I visited many places where he lived, I collected valuable information on him. On behalf of Shri Khandale from Pan Mala, I published a cassette on him and distributed 5000 cassettes free among local residents. Very few people knew about “Lahuji Vastad”. It gave me immense satisfaction that I brought him into limelight. You will know how great “Lahuji Vastad” was from the long list of his disciples. He was the inspiration of many great freedom fighters and social activists like Umaji Naik, Mahatma Phule, Krantiveer Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Lokmanya Tilak, Chafekar brothers and Swatantrya Veer Savarkar. Lahuji was the one who launched India’s fight for freedom but it went unnoticed. But later the Matang and Ramoshi community awoke to the fact and publicized his heroics. Now many organizations are established in the name of “Lahuji Vastad” and they are making his remarkable contribution known to the Society.

Many of my students from Jedhe College who hail from the Matang Community were brought together by youngsters like Jadhav and Bhadkavat and they are carrying forward his mission through Alvasa Foundation. They intend to bring out a movie on his life too.

For nearly 14 years I was giving lectures in the HR Department of “TELCO” Pune. Initially the duration of my lectures was one and a half hour. But later I started giving lectures on Motivation to workers and officers in that company. For every lecture the standard remuneration was 2000 Rs. But I gave lectures in two sessions without any compensation for over 14 years. These lectures became so popular that they canceled the 15 minute break during the lecture and I was giving a non-stop

lecture for 3 hours continuously. Their General Manager at that time came to know that I was giving a 3 hour non-stop lecture without any notes and everyone in the audience listened without moving an inch. He sent one of his officers incognito who reported that people do not sit for 3 hours straight even while watching a movie. But here no one made a move during my 3 hour lectures. “TELCO” noticed that I did not get a single adverse remarks for my lectures and felicitated me as “A Model Speaker” with a “Gold Medal”. Subhash Chandra Jadhav and Desai were concerned officers in Telco at that time and they were really doing some good work.

I have given thousands of lectures in many villages, towns, slum areas, colleges and have raised public awareness on many social issues for which I really have a sense of fulfillment.

Later on I studied many spiritual topics and began to give Pravachans or Sermons along with lectures on various subjects. But after some time due to preoccupation with other matters, the frequency of lectures came down.

In later years after I took over Universal College, there were many problems to overcome and there was a lot of running around. In that process, all such knowledge took a back seat in my mind and I was busy with only one task.

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CHAPTER 24

VADJI GRAM PANCHAYAT

“Vadji” is my most favourite place. I really love my village. I have spent a major portion of my life on development of this place. I worked a lot for Vadji through Krantiveer Gram Vikas Mandal. For next ten years the “Gram Panchayat” of “Vadji” got elected with my support. For the past 25 years, only my panels have won the elections there. Many time 9 out of 9 or 10 out of 10 candidates of mine were elected to the Panchayat. I gave my support to some candidates so that encroachments in the village should be removed. But not a single Sar Panch ever removed any encroachments. Instead such encroachments tended to increase over years. Initially I helped Sudan Patil during an election. Then I helped Sunil Sar Panch for 15/20 years and Ramesh Jadhvar for five years. But I never found a person who would make improvements that I had in mind. Politics is a very difficult and sinister occupation. I had to defeat my cousin sister twice, the daughter of my brother once and my own brother-in-law once in elections. That resulted in great enmity among us and I had to suffer enormous social loss. Once I wanted unopposed elections in the village. I brought two big groups together. But some average people in the village nominated their own representatives in the election and brought about an election. However all of our candidates only won the contest. But I felt very bad that the man whom we made Sar Panch opposed us from behind the curtains in the next election. He did not canvas properly; on the contrary he did not vote for our people. I brought all parties together and fought an election. In the earlier election, I had defeated my cousin sister and the daughter of my brother. I had given my word that I will make them Sar Panch for at least one year each. But both parties went wrong. Some people did not keep good relations with each other later on and dug out old matters during the election of Sar Panch so as to oppose the candidates. As they opposed very strongly, I could not do much and my promise did not come true. They were not saying ‘No’ nor were they helping us. In these elections, I got an experience of how selfish people are and to what extent they could go in their own interests. My relations with my brother-in-law were

spoilt forever. I was the maximum loser in this process. Our institutional and economic progress took a downward plunge. Because of the politics in the village I had often disagreements with my wife. As my brother and brother-in-law stood against each other in the election, there was a rift between both families and we stopped talking to each other. I won the election but my soul lost. I had the misfortune of becoming an adversary of own family members. Thus politics took a great toll on my life from which I may not recover forever. I had lost too much because of this Gram Panchayat business. When a Gram Panchayat was formed for the first time in Vadji, my grand father was the Sar Panch for first ten years. Then my father, my elder brother, younger brother became members too. But overall if you see, Gram Panchayat seems to be a question mark in my life. I have a feeling that “Gram Panchayat” has proved to be a Panchayat or a perennial problem for me.



CHAPTER 25

DO GOOD UNTO OTHERS AND BAD THINGS MAY COME TO YOU- AN EXPERIENCE

Really speaking there is a saying: “Do good unto others and good things will come to you”. But in my case the reverse seems to be true. I have done good to so many people but I rarely found any one participating in my good. I always used to think big, I always wanted other around me to grow big. With this intention, I spoke to Dr. Walke and Ramesh Jadhvar to invest in Pune real property. They were ready but they did not want their name to appear anywhere, were not ready to pay any taxes and wanted to double their money in three years. When I made a deal with them, prices of property were rising very fast and the market was quite hot. It looked very possible too. But there is a boom in real estate market every one or two years and then there is a recession in three years preceding and following an election. I did not realize this early enough. In fact they were not investing with me or in my business, I was not related to their investments and still I am not connected with it. But I intervened with the clear, transparent and honest intention to get something good for a close friend with the help of my knowledge. In the first instance I had helped them get a plot in Dhayri. Ramesh Pokle showed me a plot in front and made a sale deed. Later the same plot was sold to someone else. We came to know about it much later. Then I had to buy even the plot at the back too. We finalized the price of the plot and agreed to give double the amount in three years. But unfortunately recession set in and Dr. Walke and Ramesh started calling me incessantly. Without any other choice I had to sell the place to someone else, but I fell short of 20 lakh Rs. in fulfilling the promise for double money. I paid that amount myself. When I was not concerned with that deal and when I was not closely related, I don't know still why I paid 20 lakh Rs. But I completed their deal.

Later I met Sunil Jadhav. He told me to invest with him and promised to sell the land at double the price in three years. I fell for his words. During Diwali time when I went to our village I told Dr. Walke and Ramesh that one of my friends has such a proposal. In fact I would not have gained a single rupee in this deal. I was just to invest their money with Sunil, no other involvement and no share in any profits whatsoever. But why I fell for this a second time, I do not know. But it did happen again. They invested their money. I did not keep a penny with me. I returned from our place and went straight to him on Diwali day and gave the money without anything in writing. Madhavrao and my wife were witness to this transaction.

Afterwards Jadhav showed me various plots. He showed me the Warje plot first and asked me if I liked it. I approved it but later he showed me the Bavdhan plot. This place was worth constructing a building so I agreed with it. I gave him 35 lakh Rs. of mine in addition and requested me to take me as a partner. After some time he gave me some land at Chandkhed outside Pune.

Then there was demonetization. The construction and property market collapsed. If you wanted to sell, no customer was willing to buy. Dr. Walke and Ramesh were after me to pay as if I had used the money in my business. Perhaps they were not wrong either. It had taken much longer than what was promised. But they never understood that the money was invested in the land and the land was still there. I did not owe to them a single rupee individually. But assuming that I will get the money later on, I committed the same mistake again and again and kept on giving them money even while I was building my school. As a matter of fact I have given them 50 lakh Rs. more than their investment. Out of this more than half the money was for interest alone. And I am paying that interest again. When the land gets sold, I will be paying the tax ultimately. I was only a mediator. I just helped to see that some good friends earn some profit. But I never thought that it would rebound on me.

Really speaking Jadhav should not have acted in this manner. When I wanted to sell him the land he used to say that there were no customers, he suggested plotting to be done so that we could get more money and so on. He just pushed like this for 5/6 years. But I do not know why I was getting stuck in this matter. Was it my affection for Dr. Walke and Ramesh or was it just a matter of my reputation. I cannot say, but, in this whole episode, I was distressed by Dr. Walke, Ramesh and Sunil for no reason. I was just an intermediary and had nothing to do with their profit or loss. But I am suffering the fruits of my good nature while Dr. Walke and Ramesh are pressurizing me. I do not know what to do, I am repeating this truth on oath. There was another place at Khadakwasla. It belonged to someone from the Mahar legacy. We decided to

buy it and Dr. Walke, Baburao and Ramesh were to take 20 gunthas out of this land. They paid just 30 lakh Rs. But as this was land from Vatandari, we had to make a registered agreement. I could have got it done for them. But thinking that they were close friends and should not get cheated, I started the registration and other processes. But Indian bureaucracy ensures that files move up and down for five/six years without any result. I have also taken 40 gunthas in this area. Slowly I have paid them 60% of the amount. But now they are saying that they do not want the place any more. I can only hope that they will understand how I got involved in all this just because of friendship. I hope God will give them the right direction and relieve me of my worries, because I am not under any one's obligation even for a penny. Perhaps this must have happened because of my good nature and kindness. I am experiencing the adage: 'Do good unto others in an adverse way meaning Do good unto others and bad things may come your way.'





Under the cleanliness drive (from left) Aa. Bhimrao Anna Tapkir,
Senior Police Inspector Sardar Patil,
Pune Zilla Parishad Vice President Shukracharya Wanjale.



(From left) Rajesh Pandey, Mr. Bharat Kumar Raut (Adarsh Journalist),
Senior Journalist Mahesh Mhatre, Senior Journalist Ravindra Ambekar.



With Mr. Narendra Darade



(From left) Sushmaji Andhare, Neelamtai Gorhe, Eknath Khadse



On being elected unopposed to the Management Council of
Savitribai Phule Pune University



Receiving the Lokmat Icon of Education, Maharashtra Award by Vinodji Tawde, Minister of Education, State of Maharashtra. Along with Rajendra Darda, Ajinkya D.Y. Patil, Vijay Darda.



(From left) Former Minister Rameshappa Thorat, Hon. Supriyatai Sule (Adarsh MP Award)



Sanjay Ghodawat (ideal industrialist), former Chief Minister and Union Minister
Narayan Rane, MP and former Governor Srinivas Patil, Chancellor-Bharti University
Dr. Shivajirao Kadam

आदर्श शिक्षक पुरस्कार



On the occasion of Adarsh Teacher Award (from left) Dr. Shivkumar Dongre
(Exemplary Professor), Adarsh Chancellor Dr. Pt. Vidyasagar, Former Justice B. G. Coal,
Myers MIT President Dr. Mangesh (Bapu) Karad, Yuvraj Shah
(Adarsh Shikshan Sanstha Driver)



Deputy Director, Sports Department Maharashtra State Narendra Sopal, Adarsh District Sports Officer Vijay Santhan, Sports Director of SPPU Dr. Deepak Mane.



Along with Sayaji Shinde, a well-known actor in Hindi, Marathi as well as South language films



In the Kirtan Mahotsav Ceremony, H.B.P. Jagannath Maharaj Patil (Adarsh Kirtankar Award)



Shiv Jayanti Festival Programme



On the occasion of Adarsh Teacher Award (from left) Dr. Shivkumar Dongre (Exemplary Professor), Adarsh Chancellor Dr. Pt. Vidyasagar, Former Justice B. G. Coal, Myers MIT President Dr. Mangesh (Bapu) Karad, Yuvraj Shah (Adarsh Shikshan Sanstha Driver)



CHAPTER 26

A SAD EXPERIENCE

Once Dada Ghule had come to me. He asked me to buy his land at Velu. I did not want to buy it as I did not see what I could do with this land so far away. I was trying to avoid him. Perhaps he wanted some funds to pay off his loans and for his daughter's marriage. For nearly one and a half to two years he was after me. He increased his visits to us, sometimes he brought us vegetables from his farm, sometimes milk from his stable and so on. One he insisted on my wife to have a look at the land. We went to see his farm. It was an excellent farm and there was a well maintained stable of buffalos. He had 100/150 buffalos. Fertilizers made the farm very fertile. We had earlier bought some portion of his farm in partnership for the purpose of plotting. This portion lay on a hill slope. At the base he had four and a half acres of land with a fig plantation. Dada was a good agriculturist and did excellent farming. After looking at the farm, my wife thought that we have ample land at our native place. But we do not have a farm within 12/13 km from where we are staying. We could have nice farm house here. We decided to buy that land. We bought a parcel of land on the upper side of the hill too which was close by. We fixed a time limit of one year to pay the price and decided on the installments. I kept on paying installments as agreed. We completed the sale deed, Dada began jobs like preparing a garden. I was only paying the money for the job. The pipeline from his well passed through our farm. So it was decided that half the water would come to us. But he never gave a single litre of water to us. He had agreed to give us a road in the middle of the farm. But he did not give that too. Even the land was in his possession for three/four years and we had to get it from him by force.

Dada is a good man. But I cannot see why he behaved like this. All his money was paid and six months had passed. Then one day he suddenly came home and left a note for me saying that I should raise the money because I was late in paying. If I did not pay him, he threatened to commit suicide and he had held me fully responsible. I dug out all the evidence of my payments to him and I found out that I had paid him

50 lakh Rs. extra. When I bought that place, I was busy in the election for “Deanship” and that of “Maharashtra State Nursing Council”. He kept coming to me and I kept on giving him what he asked for. When I checked if I had paid in time, I found that I had paid all the money nine months in advance. Advocate Bhagavan Salunkhe is close to both of us. I showed him all the account but still he was not willing to accept. Then I filed a police complaint that he is threatening to commit suicide when I do not owe him anything. I met the local MLA and gave him a copy when MLA Thopte was also present. I showed him everything too. I had to take possession of the place using the police complaint. I cannot still solve the mystery why such a good man turned so difficult. I got a live experience of how people change and resort to lies just for greed of money. He had agreed for half share of the well and a 60 foot road passing through the farm. But he did not give it and continued to lie.

We had and still have good relations with Shantu Seth. I have written about him earlier in the chapter on Friends. But I must mention one experience with him here. We had completed a scheme called ‘Aditya sanskriti’. We had decided to build a bungalow on a ten guntha plot. There the plot was reduced by 2.5 gunthas. I was shown a bungalow in Aditya Garden City but the actual size was reduced. I was promised building on ‘Lock and Key’ basis but the construction was left half way after the slab. Finally I locked the place and completed the bungalow. Once I asked for the account of expenditure and he insulted me like I have never experienced before. He said so many things to me. People were telling me that he is not a good man, do not associate with him. He told me not to talk of accounts again. I was not happy with his calculation. Perhaps he may have had some point but he should have explained properly. But he chose to insult me which I cannot forget in my whole life.

I had bought a place along with Wanjale from Shri Laygude. There Shri Balasaheb Parge’s cousin sister also had some share. We had not thought of the place earlier because the lady had lost her husband and she had small children to look after. But Balasaheb approached Wanjale and forced us to buy the place after one year. The deal was completed while Wanjale was still alive. There were no dues to be paid. On the contrary Wanjale gave her some money. But after Wanjale’s death when his siter-in-law’s children grew up, they filed a case for that place. In fact Balasaheb had completed the deal fully. They lied saying that five lakh Rs. were still to be paid. After Wanjale’s death Vahini gave that money for their daughter’s marriage. But neither that family nor Balasaheb remembered these facts. Really speaking Balasaheb should have talked to them and sorted out the matter. But he did not make any effort for this and broke the trust placed in him.

We came into contact with Balasaheb Parge because of this land deal. He told us, 'Let us open a school and a college.' He promised a donation of 10 acres of land. We repaid the loan on that plot. We paid nearly 22 lakh Rs. and later he spoilt the deal and the school/college never came up. It is now 10/12 years since this incident but we have not received the money as yet. It was not just my money, part of it came from Jadhav and Agarwal. They are still shouting in my name. When I phone Balasaheb he says, 'Oh, I will give it shortly, when the job in hand is over, I will give the money' He has been dilly-dallying all the time. This is a sad experience in life. He has given 100 acres of his land for development and he does not find any problems there. But what I have said is the truth.

At the time of Wanjale's election, I met Santosh Jain when Wanjale had sold his land to him. He insisted on me too to sell my land. I did a small investment with him. But Wanjale told me not to invest with him because he would cheat you with sweet talk. So I stopped after a small investment. Earlier we had developed some trust in him because Jain had sold 2/3 plots to us and we had invested with him. Wanjale and he gave a written agreement to me to give 75 lakh Rs. while they were buying some land in Narhe. But they did not give me this money. I had to file a case for my earlier capital infusion vide "IPC 136". Despite written agreements and registered documents I did not get the land from Shelar and Sonavne. I was harassed for a long time by this man. Finally I reduced my expectations and made a settlement with him. He dumped another plot on me saying that we could open a hotel there and set up a "Jain Restaurant". The restaurant ran well, but now he is insisting on selling it.

When we took over the "Swargate hotel" for running it, I met Sachin Ghadge. He was doing well with a good menu. But when Ubale and Patil came to know that I have arranged the capital for him from a moneylender at the time of shortage of funds, they harassed him so much that he had to leave the hotel and the moneylender lost his money. It is now more than three years. The money is still stuck there and they are now demanding money from me. The worst thing that happened was for three years they kept me hanging saying that they would arrange for loan for Shete's land. Every time they would say, 'I will give money next month', again next month and so on. They might have had some problems but because of their promise I had committed payment dates to my creditors and I was proved wrong. Because of him I got some funds from outside on high interest and paid Shete Asaram. All other people are also pressurizing me. I have lent a lot of money to Sachin Ghadge too and am stuck quite deep in this business and I am just getting some excuses all the time.

I had hired a place for a hostel meant for "Dangat Institute". Wanjale and Pokle

were good friends. Their lodge was not doing well. Therefore I hired that lodge too when no one was willing to take it. That place had a bad reputation but I took it for the sake of friendship. Sar Panch, Kaka and Nana were opposed to hire that place. Pokle asked me to hire it for five years at least. I hired and used it for seven years. Later I gave a regular three months notice. I showed him the notice period in the registered agreement. I showed him the whole place with all original furniture and fittings while vacating. But in a rage he demanded compensation of two crore rupees from us against damages. He borrowed two lakh Rs. from me to regain jewelry pledged to a moneylender. He promised to return the same within three/ four days. When I deducted that amount after two years while accounting for sand purchases, his son stopped talking to us. They sold us 50 gunthas of land. That too went into litigation and we have nearly lost this plot too. I do not see any justice coming my way in this case.

I took some land from Taty Dangat for development in Narhe. I freed 40 acres of all his brothers' land from 'ULC' and spent two crore Rs. in those times. I was working continuously for three years and had lost five kg weight. I got the order and went straight to his house from Mumbai to give him the good news. But one of his brothers said to me immediately, 'Now let us have an increased rate.' I felt very bad. He had nothing to say about my achievement in solving his big problem. Later Nandu Sheth and Kaka used to mediate to get me three acres. I had to repay whatever money I had invested. Every time some new person used to come and start looking after the place. Even after finalizing everything, the agreement was cancelled. At the time of cancellation Aba told three /four managers to run away from the place and even the mediator turned his back to me. I was just running around police station, registrar's office, partnership office etc. Some of his relatives really helped me and Kulkarni advocate took pains to understand the case. In fact I was to take Mangilal Bafna as a partner. Therefore I arranged a meeting between him and Dangat but then the case got even worse. I helped him so much to regain the land but he never thanked me for it but tried to harass me wherever possible. He took an objection to every record and gave me nine gunthas less than what was agreed. He included four gunthas of Kute's land with encroachment in my share. He ensured encroachment outside the frontage of my school and some vegetable vendors set up their shanties near the gate. Really such instances are rare when you do good to others and you face adverse results of such favours. But unfortunately I have had such experiences. There is always a dilemma: one should follow the path of truth or falsity. But I will never leave the path of truth.

When we bought a plot at Kothrud, I became friends with Aba Bagul and Nikam Sanjay. Aba served the people like parents would look after their children. He was the

first to arrange the Kashi Pilgrimage for seniors and helped thousands of devotees to perform this holy pilgrimage. There were many old people whom their own children would not have taken anywhere, but Aba arranged the “Kashi yatra” for them. Aba was the one who really established “Navratri Festival” in Pune. Nikam and myself completed the deal, we got some profit too but the manner in which the business should have been conducted was not to my satisfaction.

We had requested police protection while laying a compound on Laygude’s plot. We knew the P.I and the Additional Police Commissioner. But one of the Havaldars took a bribe of 10000 Rs. and turned the case around and made it look like a Civil Matter. As a matter of fact, we had taken this place about 12 years ago. We made a registered agreement and gave it for constructing a building. We have our own compound on the plot. Corporator Laygude phoned the police too, but neither the court nor the police read a case properly nor do they look at the truth and they sided with our adversaries. We are being asked to build construction costing minimum of 4.5 crores for no reason. I complained to the Home Minister too, but no surprise that I never got a reply. I had this very sad experience about the police department. I got a notice for Capital Gains from the Income Tax department because I made the development agreement for that building. That was the time of demonetization. New notes were not even getting circulated at that time. But Saheb called me to his office and asked for fifteen lakh rupees. I told him honestly that the place was lying vacant; there was no construction of any kind; the Corporation had not passed any plan for the place. I told him also that we were in dispute with the developer, There was no question of capital gain at that instant. But he would not listen to any argument. It was not possible to give that much money after demonetization. I told him that there are no notes in circulation in the market, so from where could I produce so much money. Then he brought out a fallacious order on the last day of March claiming short term capital gain and asked for tax of Rs. 1.75 crore Rs. Then I made an appeal. At that time there was an officer named Benupani. He would not let anyone talk and always spoke in an insulting language and tried to show how strict he was. He asked for 25 lakh Rs. and I gave him the amount through my CA, Then I got a ‘Nil’ order. This is India, here you get no justice from the police nor the courts and we have very unjust Income Tax rules. This was the most unforgettable experience in my life.

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CHAPTER 27

ANOTHER BAD EXPERIENCE

I got introduced to Asaram Shete through Sandip Pokle. He had some land at Shindewadi. He gave me an offer for partnership. I invested nearly one and a half crore Rs with him. Nothing happened for many years, so I separated from the partnership. But he was in great difficulty at that time. He came to me and pleaded with me to get him some money on interest basis. I had suffered a great deal in my life. So I have become very sensitive and try to help others in need. But that has caused me more loss than any gain. The moneylender fixed the interest rate and gave a cheque in my name and I was stuck in the deal. But I came to know later that Shete asks people to show pity on him and tells stories of his problems. But in fact he is different. What he shows and what he is actually are quite different. He has cheated me many times now. For the last six years he has not made any repayment and not a single rupee for interest even. The moneylenders were after my blood. After some time the moneylender's son was to go to England for further studies. So he pleaded to me, 'Do anything but give me 25 lakh Rs. please now.' I was in a fix. My cousin sister's marriage was due after 7/8 monhs. Therefore I got some money on loan and gave it to that moneylender. Shete ket on saying that some of his deals were going through and he would pay soon. But even after the wedding came near, he did not pay me. But I had to pay him. So I got some loan again and paid him. Shete never took into account my difficulties. He was just talking sweetly as ever. Later I came to know that he was planning a strategy. He transferred his own residential bungalow to his son-in-law's name. He transferred his farms in the name of his close relatives. He gave the rest of the farm to the moneylender and got a loan. He had no legal papers to prove his argument. But he makes a new agreement with me every six months, gives a new cheque after so much harassment. Until he gets a notice he does not even change a wrong cheque.

I gave him money on interest basis from Shivnani. He came crying to me, I told him 'Please pay Shivnani.' I was caught in between and I shelled out 75 lakh Rs. because I had given him that money as a mediator. For the last three years I have been paying the interest on 75 lakh Rs.

I made a lot of effort to get him a buyer for his land. There also I got cheated later on. Because of Ghadge he just played around for three years and did not do what was required. But in the hope that he will do the job I kept paying him on top for measurements, fees etc amounting to nearly 15/20 lakh Rs. Shete did not send a penny on his own.

The worst thing was that he used to come and cry in front of me. I got 20 lakh Rs. from a credit society and gave a cheque in his wife's name. He promised to give me 6 acres of land on a notarized paper. He sold it to someone else. When I took objection he promised to return the money and gave a cheque. After I cancelled the objection he did not give a single rupee afterwards. How can you believe some one and whom can you call a friend? I have never seen a such cheater in my whole life. One day he brought another person to me who was a ruffian. He told me that the other man would not leave my place until I gave him two lakh thirty five thousand rupees. Saying that I will manage somehow within a day or two, I gave him some money out of a nine lakh Rs. deal I made in Kolhapur earlier. But for the past one year he has returned a single rupee. My brother was seriously sick with cancer. For three months I was phoning all the people whom I had lent money. But no one gave a single rupee. I had seen a lot of money in Shete's car but he would not part with a rupee even. What kind of a man! Always he used to give an excuse that his father had expired; he delayed matters like this for four months. Now there is "Corona"; he does not meet any one. In my life the man who has cheated me the most is Shete Asaram. It is now more than one year since the Credit Society was formed. The account is now an "NPA" but this man is not affected. When will I file a case under "IPC 138" and when will I get my money? The moneylender is not letting me sleep and I do not know what to do. But God does not seem to give him enough wisdom. I do not understand why he has brought me to a position where I have to repay some sins of the past.

Because I gave him the money, my Kolhapur cheque was not passed and my deal was cancelled. Four months ago I had gone to Raigad Police station to file a case against him for cheating because that land is in Raigad jurisdiction. He gave in writing that he would repay the amount in two installments over two months. The API at Raigad is known to me and he is a relative too. But he has not taken any action till now. On the contrary he is looking for a customer for that land, Therefore Shete is not doing

anything. The police are sitting quietly and on top of that, there is “Corona” now. I just have to trust God, that’s all.

One day, Advocate Ranjit Chavan came to me. He is my Guru, I have written about him in the chapter on Friends. He had Advocate Khune with him. Khune is a friend of his and was in some difficulty. He wanted fifty lakh Rs. urgently. He had looked around all over Pune but was not getting anywhere. If he had deposited that much money in the bank, the bank would have helped him. Otherwise, a very prominent plot and a building that he owned would have been seized by the bank. Nobody including his relations, friends, moneylenders stood up to help him. When he came to me I felt elated. I promised him that I would try and get him some help from other sources. Again I got a cheque from a Marawari money lender. He was quite clever. He said, “I never lend money to lawyers, political leaders and police because you never know when these people will cheat. ‘He gave a cheque in my name and I paid Khune the money. He repaid most of the amount in one year but five lakh Rs. were still pending. The Marawari charged me interest on five lakh Rs. Now it is five years. Advocate Khune repaid one lakh Rs. every year for five years and said that the matter was over. But the Marwari took it as interest on the loan and is now asking for the capital. When I phone Khune, he says that he has paid me fully and Marwari is demanding money from me. There were so many instances when I stood guarantee and helped people and finally I got into deep trouble.

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CHAPTER 28

MAHURAT OF AKSHAY TRUTIYA

The two persons I am going to write about today, are very important in my life. I could open my educational institute only because of inspiration from these two people. Perhaps God may have ordained them to do so and with that positive energy I could open my institute and take it to its pinnacle. Even if I did point out some of their shortcomings, I consider them turning pints in my life because of the motivation I got from them. All my progress is because of their encouragement and I shall remain grateful to them all my life and I would like to apologize to them if I have offended them in any manner.

Our “Dangat Patil institute” was running very well. We had to struggle quite a bit for getting all necessary permissions. But with some effort we got all that we wanted. Some selfish people from our institute who found it difficult to adjust with us started a campaign against me and tried to misrepresent everything. And the Dangat family listened to them. Even earlier, our relations with them were getting spoilt since elections of Wanjale and Vikas Nana. That time Pandharinath Bhau had threatened to finish me in front of Sar Panch. As said earlier I had informed all superior authorities and the police about this. But that matter stayed there only for some years. Some people like Patil, Tambde, Mote etc from our institute were given double salary for double work and I had started that practice. But many people said a lot of things in Nana’s ears. I sent a letter to nana and Nana stopped their double salary. In fact I had started this and I did not want to stop it. But Nana felt that we should employ new people; it was not right to give double work to just one person. It is quite right too. But some peons, clerks and principals gave wrong and false information. Already our

relations were not good and they had a misgiving in their minds. That impression was successfully strengthened by those who were doing wrong things, those who did not given double salary and those who were hurt by the management. As a matter of fact neither Nana nor Sar Panch have signed any of my University forms and they opposed my candidature during elections, that too election for Deanship of Commerce Faculty of SPPU or Pune university and the election for management Council for which Mrs. Sunetratai Ajitdada Pawar was also standing. They did not sign my election form. I fought every election with Kaka's signature—that was very unjust for me. But Dangat family wanted me to canvas for them. You can see how very unjust this was.

One day, in the first week of August 2020 Nana called me. In that meeting, his elder son was also present. Nana came straight to the point and said, 'Just as you have trained your son Shardul to work in the Educational Foundation, I want to train my son too. 'I thought it was a nice thing, I thought he would say,' You are an expert and you should train him.' But he never put up such a constructive proposal. Instead he told me straight in his office, "You should resign now and let him take over." Really speaking the institute is not a private proprietary firm so that only me and my dynasty will run it. The institute is a legal entity. There are laws, rules and regulations. But he never took into account rules and laws. I spent twenty five years in the prime of my life in this institute. I invested my mind, money and physical strength in building this institute and I was given a shock of my life. I told him to look at all the school records. I am the Principal. In 12 years the school has moved from a grant school to a non-grant school. So I have lost more than a crore of Rs just on the salary account. Therefore I am not going to leave it just like that. During the construction of the school, material worth seven lakh rupees was taken from my own sites for the school and I have not been returned a single rupee for this material. At that time the land price was 10000 Rs. a guntha. I could have bought 70 guntha land myself and opened my own school. But I wanted to work in this group, because I really liked Dangat family a lot. I cannot express it in words.

I gave an open speech on 15th August so that they could hear what I wanted to say. But He was obsessed with love for his son like Dhruatarashtra and therefore it might be that he could not separate wrong from right.

For the last one year they are looking after the school. But they have not appointed even a peon at the door to see who is coming in at what time, who has claimed how much travel allowance, how much money is spent for what purpose and so on. Running an educational institute is a mammoth task. They do not seem to realize this up to now. Many institutes appoint consultants and run the institute under their guidance,

but here things are exactly the opposite. The place is run with advice from people like peons, clerks, lazy teachers who do not know anything at all. It is really unfortunate for the school. I have poured my everything in the school for twenty five years, but they would not accept a single advice from me, they would interpret my legal advice in a different way—all this is wrong. The first thing that they did after taking over was to dismiss the daughter of my real brother, son of my sister-in-law, a teacher working at our place, the daughter-in-law of my brother, though they were working sincerely according to prevailing rules. Still I did not say anything. I am just hoping that they will improve soon, if not today, maybe tomorrow. They have misplaced all our records for last 15/20 years. They do not sign on proceedings of meetings. I am running the place as well as I can.

Me and Kaka have been working together for last 32 years now. Initially there were not many Ganapati festivals on Sinhgad Road and the festival was not celebrated in a very big way. We registered an organization called “Navjyot Mitra Mandal” around that time with Kaka as the President and me as the secretary. We organized many functions together later on. That was when the “Public Library” was born. The library which is given grade ‘A’ on the Tehsil level, is running very well even now. Taking into account my cousin’s experience, it was not desirable to work with just one organization, we started another organization by the name ‘Dhareshvar’ along with Kaka. Initially when we wanted to set up a girls’ school, he was opposed to the idea. Everyone was saying that they did not want to get into those hassles. But even Kaka will agree and admit that I convinced them and forced them to open this Kanya Shala and the organization. Kaka was the first corporator from the Dhayri constituency. In fact he was in active politics from much earlier. He was the President of “Zilla Yuvak Committee”. He gave very little time to the school in the first 5/10 years after he became a corporator. But he supervised himself the entire construction of the school. I looked after all matters related to education. Now the Institute has got a good name. After Wanjale’s election, my relations with Dangat Patil were disturbed for some time and I had gone to Kaka and Nandusheth to see them. Everyone agreed on my becoming a Director for MBA course and admitting half of our members into the institute. Kaka had accepted this very generously at that time. He had accepted that I would become the Director of MBA course. But he thought that this could be problematic for him and so he did everything to stop the MBA course immediately though I was opposed to this action. I had given him a list of opposing members too but, he just resorted to useless time pass and did not stick to his words. I cannot still believe that Kaka would do such a thing and will go back on his words.

It is now 12/14 years since the construction of the school has begun. In those

days, though I was not in a sound position, I have given one crore nine lakh Rs. for construction of the school. His clerk only has typed the account and given it to me. But very conveniently this matter is getting ignored. I had taken a loan for almost one crore Rs. for this purpose and I have paid interest on it for four /five years. But nowadays I am paid Rs. five lkhs only for expenses. During the first 4/5 years when the school had no real income, we were sitting together and preparing all accounts. In the last ten years, Kaka has not held a single meeting for discussing accounts. Actually the institution has grown much bigger now. But I am never called in for discussing accounts and making the budget. Last year I had brought out the subject of accounts. But after the Income Tax raid during elections, I had stopped looking at accounts and documents. Therefore I told them clearly that I had no accounts. When I said that it was not possible for me to work in the institution any more, they uttered some words of praise saying, 'We shall never remove you; your chair will always be reserved for you,' At least, this much difference in attitude was seen in Kaka and Dangat Patil. Even though I have suffered a loss, they have good feelings about me. So even those few words gave me some solace. At the moment, Kaka does not consult me on anything at all. He does everything on his own. As Saint Tukaram says, 'I have remained alive only for philanthropy, that's all.' So I would say 'Sudha mhane' instead of 'Tuka mhane--!'

I am there now only for the sake of signature. When I invested a crore of Rs for building the school, this land was priced at one lakh Rs. per guntha. I would have got 100 gunthas for the same and it would be worth twenty five crore Rs. today.

Nandusheth was speaking the truth. He used to say, 'Sir, You work so hard, you apply your brains and there is nothing in your name. You must open an institute in your name. You can do it and you have the required energy and strength. On his words I started this institution and it is quite successful today. We had bought five acres of land for an engineering college for which we two had taken a loan from "Jijamata bank" as Kaka did not want to give money. Later Vikas Patil opened a mine there, so Kaka gave up the proposal for the engineering college. We gave the land for development. In fact both of us had contributed half the money and taken the land on individual names, we got individual income too on the property. But while talking to me Kaka had once said, 'We had taken these five acres of land for the Institute and we got some money too on it. So we got a profit, isn't it?' But it was really not so. Each one had contributed personally and there was no contribution from the institute. Once he forgot that I had one crore Rs contribution in it. I was shocked. I have never seen a better man than Kaka in my life; a man who always stood by the Truth. But I have a regret that I did not have such an experience with him in case of the Institution. I used to say always

Friendship is an invaluable jewel
Money can never measure it's value
What is the worth of this earth
When we have heavens in our reach.

The same thing happened with me. I never cared for anything more than my friends. But now I am quite hopeful that Kaka and Nandusheth will do full justice to me. If not I will take it that that is my destiny and God's will.



CHAPTER 29

VARIOUS INITIATIVES IN OUR INSTITUTION

Right from the eleventh standard, Shardul started his training and had excellent experience in running all the institutions. Not only he has improved their educational quality but also has done excellent financial planning. There is no doubt now that whatever Dreams I had about my institutions will be fulfilled satisfactorily. I faced tremendous difficulties in initiating many activities and that is the reason why I had to open so many independent organizations. But with Shardul at the helm my dream is getting fulfilled. Shardul not only has excellent ideas about various programmes but he plans them very well and implements the same in a remarkable manner. While arranging so many programmes for students and people from all sections of the Society, he is never obstinate. I have never opposed any of the programmes he has started, I have not uttered a single negative word even if I did not agree with him on some programmes and gave him full freedom. In case of Shardul, I always say,

Shardul is a man of India

Who implements everything successfully.

Therefore, we have plenty of programmes and initiatives in our institutions. All those who come for these programmes as Guests or Award winners give him 100 % credit and that is Shardul's real success. These initiatives and programmes have added greatly to the reputation of our organizations and the entire credit goes to Shardul. He works very hard and does everything very sincerely. I have no doubt in my mind that he will take our organizations to the pinnacle of success.

I am going to outline some of the programmes that are conducted in our

institutions. None of us in the family celebrate our birthdays in isolation. We organize some programme when just a bouquet of flowers is accepted. As I said earlier since my birth, I have never celebrated my birthday till 52 years of age, because we did not have such a practice in those days. Later my wife and Shardul insisted on it and we began to celebrate. The Educational year begins with celebration of my birthday because it falls on 6th of June. We celebrate this day by the name “Kirtan”. For three days “Kirtan” by some saintly holy men are held and on the final day of Kala and “Kirtan”, we have a Yadnya, food donation and a simple celebration is done with just a bouquet of flowers. In this festival the State level Best Award Kirtankar is given away.

SHRIMAD BHAGWAT SAPTAH

We have ‘Adhik Mas’ every three years. Mahila Mandal organizes “Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah” for a week every year, for the last 25 years this festival is organized without fail. The only purpose of holding “Kirtan Festival” and “Bhagwat Saptah” is to spread righteous and spiritual thoughts in the Society. Both these programmes are held to promote peace in the Society and propagate good habits among the public.

IDEAL MOTHER AWARD

My wife Surekha Jadhvar’s birthday falls on 31st August and we celebrate it by giving the “Ideal Mother Award” on this day. Every year two mothers who have given birth to highly cultured philanthropic righteous children are given this award. In the first year we gave this award to the mother of Hon. Minister Shri Sadabhau Khot and the mother of Shri Rahul Karad. Later distinguished mothers like the mother of Hon. Minister Shri Mahadeo Jankar, mother of Hon. Shri Dhairyashil Mane, MP Nivedita Mane are given this award. We invite eminent ladies such as MPs or Ministers as Chief Guests for these functions.

IDEAL TEACHER AWARD

Just a few days later Shardul’s birthday falls on 8th September. We celebrate his birth day by giving away the “Ideal Teacher Award” because it immediately follow 5th September which is Teachers’ Day. Very few selected personalities like ideal Vice Chancellors, ideal Professors, ideal Principals, ideal teachers are given this award. So far Vice Chancellor of Swami Ramanand Tirth Marathwada University Dr. Vidyasagar and Vice Chancellor of Gondwan University Dr. Salunke have been given this award. Similar criteria are followed for selection of other awardees.

CLEANLINESS AND DE-ADDICTION CAMPAIGN

Advocate Shardul took along a number of students from Jyuniar College and conducted a Cleanliness campaign in 100 villages, 100 schools and 100 temples over many years. He also conducted some de-addiction programme during this initiative. Young generation of today is getting addicted to bad habits rapidly and today's youth is not as strong and cultured as it should be. Therefore this initiative is proved to be very important for the young population.

VARIOUS COMPETITIONS

Competitions such as late Uddhavrao Jadhvar Essay contest and late Rameshbhau Wanjale Elocution contest are held at the school level. Every year nearly 10000 essays are sent for the competition and about 1000 students participate in Elocution Contests. These contests are held all over Maharashtra. Similarly Bharud Competitions, elocution and story telling contests, debates, street plays are organized at the college level. Mostly these competitions are held on current topics.

SCIENCE EXHIBITIONS

"Science Exhibitions" are held at the State level. The purpose behind these exhibitions is to let students gain knowledge of Science subjects, let them conduct and present scientific experiments, let students have stage to exhibit their talents so that the Society as a whole can benefit from the same.

SPORTS FESTIVALS

"Sports Festivals" are held across all faculties and branches. As it is sports programmes based on motor skills are held in our institutions right from Balwadi to 10th standard. Students must get stronger and stronger in their life because the motto of our organization is 'Education for Strength, Knowledge and Right Thinking.' With this view students are always encouraged to play various sports and rotating trophies are given to winners. After we have opened the new campus this year sports competitions on Maharashtra State level for Engineering students are also held in this festival.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

In order to let students have an outlet for their artistic skills, every year a 10 day festival is arranged. A number of Cine Artists are invited to guide students on fine arts

and these festivals are celebrated with great style.

GIVE UP LIQUOR, TAKE TO MILK

On the evening of new year's day i.e on 31st December this programme is being conducted for the last 10 years on behalf of "Haveli Police Station" and our organizations. We try to send a message to public for de-addiction and tell them that we should begin the new year by drinking some milk instead of liquor. Following our example many organizations In Pune have commenced this initiative on their own and they deserve our congratulations.

BRAVERY AWARDS

We give this award every year in our organization. Children at the national level who have shown acts of bravery are felicitated by the President of India every year. A similar award is given at the hands of a high ranking Military Officer each year in our organization. We have been giving free education to children of present day or ex-army soldiers in our institutes since last two years.

SHIV JAYANTI

Our native place is the sacred place where "Shiv Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj" had put his footsteps. Our organization is working in this sacred land. I worked in Pune where Shivaji Maharaj spent his childhood. There is no college in the name of Shivaji Maharaj here. But we founded the "Shiv Chhatrapati Arts and Commerce College" at Vadgaon and I feel proud that I have been working as its Principal. This programme is held on a very big scale so that people get to know the life history of Shivaji Maharaj and our youth should work for the benefit of the Society. WE take out a very big procession and organize lectures of eminent speakers to build social awareness.

LIFETIME AWARD

We give this award every year on the occasion of the birth anniversary of our organization. Eminent people from the fields of politics, social work, economic affairs and journalism who have been doing excellent work and devoted their entire life to the Society, not just on the level of Maharashtra but on the level of entire India are given this award. So far we have given this award to ex-chief minister of Maharashtra Shri Manohar Joshi, National leader Shri Sharad Yadav, ex-minister Shri Eknath Khadse and ex-minister Shri Narayan Rane. This award was also given to Chief Editor of Sudarshan TV from Delhi Shri. Chavan for journalism.

YUVA SANSAD

This is Shardul's favourite programme. M. I. T. conducts a Chhatra Sansad every year. With inspiration from Shri Rahul Karad, we have commenced this programme on the Maharashtra State level on similar lines. Shardul has worked very hard to make this programme successful. It is not an easy task to bring together 20 to 25 prominent people from different fields. But for the last five years "Yuva Sansad" has been the most talked about programme in which so many eminent personalities have participated. The programme is held over two days where one and a half to two thousand young people participate. Womens' participation is also seen on a large scale. Very important topics from the national and social perspective are chosen for lectures by very distinguished personalities. In this event awards for the ideal Chief Minister, Minister, MP, Young MP, MLA, Corporator, ZP member, Young Idol, ideal Sar Panch are given out and the selection is done in a very unbiased manner. As there are a large number of participants, only passholders are allowed to attend the event. People from all parties are invited for the festival because we do not work for any particular party. We support those who do good work. So far Hon. Manohar Joshi, Raju Shetti, Sadabhau Khot, Mahadeo Jankar, Chandrakant Dada Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Chief Minister of Goa Shri Savant Saheb have graced the occasion. Many government officers and journalists are have also attended the convention. Editors of most important TV channels have come in this programme. Not a single rupee is taken from any young participant for the programme. Shardul conducts this programme on behalf of "Dr. Sudhakararao Jadhvar Social Trust". I have no doubt that one day this programme will get known all over India and Shardul's hard work will be appreciated.



CHAPTER 30

SOME REGRETS IN MY MIND

I have done so many things in my life. I have achieved what I never imagined in my childhood nor thought over any time in my life. I have achieved far more success than what I could hope for, hence I am really thankful to the Almighty. I never had evil things in my mind and never bore ill will for anyone. I worked very hard throughout my life; never cared for pleasures while working. I had the courage to face any situation. I never abandoned any job in hand howsoever difficult it might have been and I was successful in every venture. Yes, there was great stress and strain, but I never faced failure in my life. There are a few things that I wanted to do or I expected them to happen. I did not get them or perhaps I did not have enough time for them and maybe they will never happen in my life. Therefore I have some regrets in the mind and they ought to get expressed here.

NEVER HAD GOOD FRIENDS

I did not have friends that I desired to have. There were some who were friends just for the sake of getting some job done. Their friendship vanished as soon as the job was done. But I will regret the fact that I never had friends who would share their joys with sorrows with me, who would give me moral support, with whom I could share my thinking and who would be close to my heart.

THEY JUST USED ME

There were many friends and others who just used me and were never grateful. That does not mean that I had any monetary or other expectations from them but, my only hope was that they would acknowledge that my presence made a fundamental change and improvement in their lives. Nobody seems to remember that he achieved something with my help. I think, people in politics form majority in this group. I did

good to many people but they too never remained friends forever.

In my life I have always worked for good of others. So I came in contact with so many people. Some remained in close touch for some time. But there were many people who were benefitted 100 % by my help, who could never hope to repay my obligations despite thanking me many times. As soon as their job was done, they went away and would not even say 'Hi, Hello' afterwards.

COULD NOT GIVE ENOUGH TIME TO REGULAR EXERCISE

I exercise every day. Right from my childhood, I did regular exercise, yogasanas and played many sports. I wanted to have a strong body like a wrestler. But because of circumstances I could not devote much time and money to body building. I will always regret the fact that I would never be able to fulfill my dream of having a strong muscular body.

NEVER HAD GOOD PEOPLE IN LIFE

That is my biggest regret. I never got people I wanted. Be it my employees, people in my village, friends or partners; I never got people who would think in my way to proceed further in any matter. If I had them, it would have been a different story altogether. Not just these people but I did not get P.A. s of the kind that I wanted to have. This regret will always remain in my mind because they were never able to catch up with the speed of my work. I found that slowly people would run away from me. Therefore I handled many jobs myself.

NEVER GOT SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY

My siblings never acted in a fashion that was desirable for the family. I did not see them perform sincerely. In any profession or job that was given to them. As a matter of fact, family members should have the maximum participation in your enterprises, but they chose to just observe from far and behaved in a detached manner. Detachment is a good virtue if one would just sit quietly without expressing opposition. If each of them had followed his own business attentive, there would have been far more progress today. But they were satisfied with just simple expectations from life.

THE VADJI PROJECT

I am greatly attached to my place Vadji. I have done so many things for Vadji for

many long years. I have a dream of building a large hospital at Vadji but that dream is not yet fulfilled. God only knows if that dream will come true or not. But I still have a regret that I could not complete this project.

THE DREAM OF AN IDEAL VILLAGE

I always had a dream that Vadji my village should be a model village and I worked hard for it for many years. But after coming to Pune, I got busy with many other activities and this dream could not be fulfilled. Later the people whom I trusted so much, whom I got elected and helped so much turned out to very ineffective and they found happiness in just fighting with each other. Therefore I was unable to make my place a model village. 40 years ago, many schemes far better than Anna Hazare's schemes were implemented here as I was there myself. But this regret has remained in my mind.



CHAPTER 31

MY FAMILY

I have done so many things in my life. I have achieved what I never imagined in my childhood nor thought over any time in my life. I have achieved far more success than what I could hope for, hence I am really thankful to the Almighty. I never had evil things in my mind and never bore ill will for anyone. I worked very hard throughout my life; never cared for pleasures while working. I had the courage to face any situation. I never abandoned any job in hand howsoever difficult it might have been and I was successful in every venture. Yes, there was great stress and strain, but I never faced failure in my life. There are a few things that I wanted to do or I expected them to happen. I did not get them or perhaps I did not have enough time for them and maybe they will never happen in my life. Therefore I have some regrets in the mind and they ought to get expressed here.

My family has grown much bigger now. We four brothers, our children, their own children after they got married make up a big family. Knowing the problems in a joint family, right from the beginning I told them to run their families independently. Most of them have settled in Pune. Each one has his own house or bungalow and most are occupied including their wives. Dinkar among four of us is the eldest, a very stern and strong personality. But he never came up to my expectations nor those of our grand father. He looked after our village as Deputy Sar Panch twice. But was always immersed in bad habits. He must be around 65 now. He had three sons. One son aged 20 died in an accident. Anna too had paralysis and is mostly at home. He is better now, he moves around and goes to the farm too. My second elder brother Madhukar who was called Bapu by us. He was a very humble and sedate soul. Even if I shouted in anger, he would not talk back. He has two sons and two daughters. One son Balaji and Appa have settled in Pune and their wives work too. Bapu expired two years ago because of cancer.

I am third born and Madhavrao is fourth. When my father died, I had given him my word that I will look after him like my own son. He is also very humble and respectful. He would not beg to anyone despite whatever the difficulty. We have a younger sister who is married in Beed city. Her husband was a conductor and he has now retired. This in short is our whole family.

I have two sons, Shardul and Jayprakash. Jayprakash is the older son. He is also very humble, respectful and will never raise his head in disrespect. He runs a gym which was inaugurated by Bollywood hero Dharmendra. His is an excellent gym in Pune.



CHAPTER 32**CHI. SHARDUL**

Shardul is my second son. He was born on “Ganesh Chaturdashi” day when we were returning from the Ganapati immersion procession. At that time, we were laying the slab of our “Vishvakarma Apartments”. Right from childhood he has been very active and a mamma’s boy. When he was small, he used to gather other children around and imitate me, he would make a speech like I did in front of other boys. He used to imitate me on phone and give orders like I did. “Send two trucks of aggregate, one truck of sand’ exactly like me. I put him in “Royal Rose English Medium School” belonging to our own Dangat Patil Society. Even in his childhood he was never given special treatment being the son of a Director of the school. He was treated like any other student. Every year he passed with good marks, He got excellent marks in tenth standard and he was granted admission to BMC college.

He got admission on his own merit and did 11th and 12th standard in Commerce there. He had good marks and could have opted for Science stream in order to go for engineering later. But he was not interested in that and he gave preference to commerce. He got good marks in 12th standard too and he found a place in the Law course and that too in the ILS Law college. It is highly reputed college where you do not get admission easily, but he got in with his own merit. He completed the five year B. A. L. L.B. course there and did L.L.M in Ajinkya D. Y. Patil college. While pursuing this degree, he cleared 5/6 other courses in law side by side like D.T.L.; D.L.L.and L.W.; MBA and so on. I have studied extensively but he has continued to study even further to surpass my degrees.

After 11th standard he used to sit with me after returning from college and learnt how to run an institute for 5/7 years. Now he is running the institutes on his own. I only support him in his efforts. He is handling the new Universal Engineering College fully on his own.

Shardul does not have a single friend, he has no bad habits. He works for 24

hours only for the good of the institution. He himself handles proper meetings of every branch, plans their financial and academic routine and all other important jobs. He works most sincerely, honestly, be it recruiting new teachers or be it any administrative jobs. At the age of just 25, he is coming up as a very able administrator of organizations. The entire planning and execution of all programmes and initiatives in the institution are managed by Shardul independently. You rarely find so many initiatives in any other educational organization. He exercises good control over finances. I have no doubt that all these institutions have an excellent future under his guidance. Therefore I have handed over all the responsibility to him and I am now relieved of any worries. I always remember “Saint Tukaram’s abhang” here :

Blessed are the parents
Whose children work for the good.
God blesses those families
In which children turn out to be righteous.
You should listen to Geeta and Bhagvat
And meditate on Shri Vithoba always.
Tukaram says let me of service to them
So that I may have boundless blessed destiny.

It is only the fortunate who have good children free of any addiction and who are promising and hard working and I am fortunate enough to have such children. When I was their age we were not in a very good position. But I was very strict and Shardul is like that today. He is going ahead in my footsteps. At his age I had just become a Professor and I had a similar body and nature. My annual income was just 25,000 Rs. Today Shardul’s institutions earn more than 10 crore Rs every year. Therefore he has a wide field open for further progress. I have no doubts that he will fulfill my dream of setting up our own University. He is not fond of hoteling, has no friends, good or bad. He thinks of progress of the organization for 24 hours, works for it from the morning till evening. Nowadays, as the new campus is very large spread on 50 acres, he looks after some institutions in the morning and Universal College in the afternoons. Most importantly he is fully vegetarian and has no bad habits at all. Like “Sambhaji Maharaj” he has taken it upon himself to respect his parents and worship the father like a God.

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CHAPTER 33

MRS. SUREKHA

Surekha is my wife, a very hard working woman. It is now 30 years since we got married. Earlier I was not in a very good position. When I started earning, my salary was 2000 Rs a month. Her parents were in financially very stable position. But she participated in every venture of mine, worked very hard and was satisfied with whatever was available. She started married life with almost nothing. Today we have enough prosperity but I am amazed at her readiness to work so hard even now. She does not rest at all and is busy in the family all the time. I myself have worked 18 hours a day but she never complained about it. No hoteling, no shopping, no going for walks—nothing! And still not a word of complaint! She kept herself busy in household work all the time. For the whole life i.e. 30 years she was busy in her own work, but I am now a bit worried because of this because she is not used to any spare time at all. We cannot even chat for 10 minutes because she is not used to talk a lot and we are so busy with our own work.

Madam got so busy in the work that she even took upon herself the task of running the mess of “Dangat Patil Nursing Institute”. At times when the maid did not turn up, she would herself cook for the students. She was running the mess for 100 students alone. But I feel sad about one thing: Vikas Patil never gave the rates as were common at that time. Every time he used to pay 300/400 Rs. less per student, He would not give a raise for two years even. He would cut payment for all holidays and at the end of the year there would be no balance at all. As a matter of fact, I opened the “Nursing College”. He was opposed to it. I did everything including getting all permissions. But Nana did not give a rate that would compare well with outside messes. I will always regret this fact. I told her many times to stop working for the mess. These people are deliberately giving you less rates. You are not getting even 10,000 Rs. a year. I will give you a lakh of Rs. But she is not ready to leave. She says, “Let us consider when we are doing everything. I will run the mess till I have a desire to work.” I feel amazed and

a bit happy about the fact that she keeps on working in such adverse circumstances when I cannot give her enough time in her life. Therefore she has kept herself busy in all these activities.

We are very much fond of each other. We cannot stay away from each other even for an hour. But as she has devoted herself to her work we cannot stay together for more than an hour or so. She does all her work herself and even today she cooks food every day. If the maid does not turn up she completes all household jobs. She has occupied herself in religious routines. She made me build a temple for her worships. She herself sews all the Gods' dresses herself on her sewing machine. She gets totally immersed in divine matters. She is quite adamant by nature. If I do anything that she does not agree with, she would not forget that for 10/20 years. That is the only fault in her nature that I can see. She never forgets and therefore sometimes I feel that she has come in my life to take some sort of revenge. She says that she broke from her parents' place because of us and awful nature of her brothers. Therefore she acts as if she is taking a revenge. Except this issue, there is no doubt that she has devoted her entire life for progress and prosperity of my family and to nurture it so well.

A female Cobra may forget to take a revenge but Madam cannot forget anything. She is very stubborn but the most important gift she has given me is our son "Shardul" who is hard working, honest, self-respecting, intelligent, who has no bad habits and who has the ability to cater to his aims and interests. Therefore my wife is the best and most loving person partner for me.

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CHAPTER 34

A LETTER TO MY SON

To

Dear Shardul,

Many heartfelt blessings!

I have been observing you for the last 25 years. Right from childhood, you have been very active. You have never made any demands on and never asked me to get something for you. Never have you insisted on getting something immediately. You have always been doing right things. You worked hard and completed your studies from a good college on your own. Now you are looking after all the institutions very well. You are getting a good name as a hard working, sincere, studious administrator initiating and implementing new programmes. In an age when most people enjoy life and sports, you have engaged yourself in this sacred mission. You are working for the organization very industriously at the playful stage of life causing some injustice to yourself perhaps. There is no doubt that you are working as an excellent administrator being aware of difficulties faced by your father for whom you have divine respect.

In my autobiography, I have written down all my good and bad experiences in life. You know that a person working most honestly has to suffer heavily. Everyone tries to cheat him. You should stay away from bad friends. I can tell you from my own experience that it is better to do without friends if you cannot get good friends. Never start a business in partnership with anyone. We have never gained in such ventures. We have done all the work but people have taken only disadvantage of our softness. Never mind if we accomplish less of jobs but, it appears that partnership does not lead us to any gain. So beware of partnerships.

Never rely only on one business because you never know when a business can get into trouble. It is essential to have variety in our undertakings. Also, do not lose your sleep because of over borrowing. It is true that we cannot progress without loans but,

if we have loans which we can repay easily, there is no tension later. We should take that much loan only. Even though a task gets delayed by an year or two, we have to undertake and complete tasks with proper planning. You have ample scope for further progress in life. It took me 50 years to achieve some success, you have those many years ahead to achieve higher destinations.

There is proverb in English. 'Health is wealth.' How true it is!

Always you must look after your health. You must have food in time. It is necessary to have nutritious diet. Ad you are a vegetarian, you must ensure regular, balanced diet. Exercise is essential for good health and well being. You must exercise at least one hour every day. You should certainly find that much time for yourself.

You are a lawyer too. While fully concentrating on your institutions and our hotel business, you should also keep up your legal practice to some extent. After you get married, your wife will certainly help you in these occupations. You can entrust some jobs to her while you work on legal matters. I think this diversion is important not so much for money but it is necessary to get some experience and to keep a watch on people around.

A number of people had apprehensions about bringing you in the administration of our organization and they were opposed to your entry. But you have proved them wrong with your performance and you have shown who you are. You have earned a name in such a short time and you should be always on your toes to keep up to this reputation.

You have achieved excellent success and oratory skills at an early age. There is no doubt that you will become an excellent speaker. I feel that you should give lectures on some specific personalities and national leaders. I am sure you will always be applauded as a successful speaker.

At times, you seem to lose your temper which is quite natural at your age. But we are the owners, we have full powers and we can take any decision we like. Therefore you should keep your calm while taking any decision and you should take reasonable decisions. You know the definition of decision goes like this: Decision means choosing the best alternative amongst alternatives. Therefore you must choose the right alternative to decide and achieve success.

It is not right to start any mission without planning. Success is the outcome of proper planning, right decisions and perfect implementation and only such success lasts for a long time. Hard work, honesty, right decisions, good character and freedom from bad habits are essential attributes for success. You possess all these qualities, but there should not be any slackness with passage of time. Good moral character is the

most important means to achieve success. “Swami Vivekanand” says:

When you lose your wealth Nothing is lost

When you lose your health Something is lost

But when you lose your character Everything is lost.

So please remember : You can earn money and a good body any time but when a man loses character, he seems to lose everything in life. Whatever people may say, we must have belief in ourselves. People always criticize those who do good work.

I need not tell you but still I would like to say, ‘You have been trained very well so you will not have many difficulties because I was successful despite being in bad company and despite having so many difficulties. You have the same qualities. You are hard working, honest, studious, free of bad habits and capable of taking firm decisions. So you will definitely be victorious. I have no doubts that you will scale many pinnacles of success and will fulfill our dream of building a University. You have my choicest of blessings !



CHAPTER 35

SOME THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION

The educational system in India has been framed by the British. English rulers wanted only creation of clerks in this country. Therefore they dismantled the earlier educational system in India and forced a modern system on India since 1835. The same system is prevailing even now. Even after 70 years of independence we have not made any changes in that pattern. English rulers discarded our system which laid emphasis on intellect, physical strength and righteous attitude and imposed a new system and ensued that Indians do not get good old values. Really speaking if new generations respect and love their parents, families, nation and morally upright upbringing, there will be peace in society. But such things are not given any importance. Earlier people used to obey their parents and teachers. They considered themselves blessed to lay their lives for the motherland. Now millions of people are deprived of this good culture and a very selfish and dishonest society is being created. But our educational experts do not seem to be aware of this. Everyone is busy seeing to it how India will go to dogs. Students who used to idealize whatever their teachers taught, are seen now to assault the teachers physically. They are not willing to listen to anything at all. It is necessary to make basic changes in the policy. Instead of opening so many police stations, if we pay attention to create a morally upright society, people will not behave so rashly and will follow all rules and regulations. People are not given vital information they need. What is most striking is that in this system the student who behaves properly, lives honestly, is not given any marks and he is not mentioned in the mark sheet even. So it looks like that in the present day age of completion institutions and good conduct are being kept aside. This is very harmful for the nation. In this country, minority sectors can get education of their religions, but majority sections are not able to receive knowledge from our religious books in our own country. Man is just an animal if he is not given good upbringing. I do not know how our educational

experts have become so blind to this reality. If we want to build a strong India, physical education should deserve some marks. If we want to build amorally upright India, we must give marks to cultured behavior, honesty and goodness in actions. It is very unfortunate that the present education system has none of these attributes.

You need a right combination of good thinking, good actions and good diet in life. But in today's situation, the young generation and children do not seem to be aware of this at all. They just know how to get marks and pass examinations. Many students cannot even write their own name properly, they are not affected by anything whatsoever. I think there is a certain conspiracy behind all this disaster.

Knowing this situation I have coined the motto of my educational foundation as 'Education for strength, intellect and righteous actions', because the main purpose of education is to make an ideal human being out of a child.

I firmly believe in the almighty and myself. Thus I am a believer in God. Therefore I never stray from good conduct and right behavior. But one thing is sure that man must have faith in someone. I have no doubt that I have been well blessed by my faith in God.



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॥ Shree ॥

To

Dear Suhakarrao Jadhvar

Greetings

Just this morning I read about your grand success. I was extremely delighted! I tried to get in touch with you on phone but your phone must have been very busy with congratulatory calls and so I could not talk to you.

I would like to congratulate you on many counts. A number of people pass M.A. M. Com, L.L.B.; L.L.M in life, some get even Ph. D at the end. But I am very happy and proud to note that our friend Jadhvar Sir has passed all these exams in one life. I feel such achievements are very rare indeed.

Your success is really outstanding considering the background against which you have reached these pinnacles of success. We are as proud as you are for the fact that a member of a peasant family from a village devoid of any educational background achieves so much success in life.

Sir, besides this success, I have seen many other facets of your personality from close quarters. You have been a hard core teacher, builder, director of various institutions, a banker and a social activist and you have excelled in all these fields. I can imagine the effort that you must have taken to reach this status. We can see how stunted some people are who get so much smitten with a little success in your comparison. As it is even knowledgeable people tend to take a long time to realize the worth of their near ones.

What my favourite philosopher H.W. Longfellow says applies to you quite aptly

‘The height by the great men

Reached and kept were not

Attained by a sudden flight; But they while their companions

Slept, were toiling upward in night.’

As “Discreati” said.

‘The secret of success to constancy to purpose.’

Our national “Saint Tukaram Maharaj” says

‘It takes some effort make possible what is impossible!

Tukaram says, it is possible just because of persistent study’

That is the secret of your success.

English Barrister “Lord Reading” has explained in very nice words how success.

Prosperity and hard work are related to each other;

‘Lord Reading when joining the Bar thought that it would be a bed of roses and no bed or all bed and no roses.’

We are aware that our Dr. Jadhvar too does not have a moment of rest like Lord Reading.

My dear friend, I would like to tell you most earnestly that you have reached such heights in life that can be described in Bahinabai’s words as;

‘Oh my soul, live a life of great heights like the high sky and as valuable as mother earth.’

Sir Winston Churchill in a letter to his daughter has described how a life devoted to no thoughts is like ;

‘I have achieved a great deal to achieve nothing in the end.’

Sir, Bhartruhari in his Niti Shastra has described a super human being like you who has achieved great pinnacles of success with his ability

‘Despite obtaining a treasure of precious jewels Gods were not satisfied, they were not deterred even after swallowing deadly poison, they stood to their ground till they got the Nectar. Similarly really competent people do not stop until they achieve their objectives.’

The primary motivation behind your success has always been blessings from your respected parents.

“Saint Tukaram” says

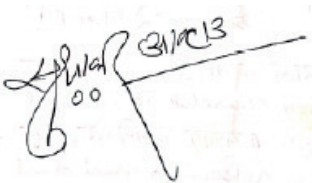
God blesses that family which produces righteous sons and daughters. ‘I pray to the Almighty that your success may reach greater heights and higher echelons!

Hearty congratulations to you and your entire family!

Sometimes it is not possible to express such emotions in face to face meetings, so have resorted to letter writing here.

Keep in touch

With love



Sudhakar Avhad

SUDHAKAR

A Person of great eminence was born in “Vadji”
As a cute, fair child with eyes so lovely
Very clever, intelligent and smart
Always stood first in the class
For ever a ray of hope and promise
With hands full of nectar, Sudhakar, Sudhakar || 1 ||

Had secondary education at Tarkheda
Higher Secondary from Barshi College
Higher Degrees from Sulakhe Commerce College
In Income Tax Audits he went very far
Became a Professor initially there
Popular in students, Sudhakar, Sudhakar || 2 ||

After setting up first High School in Vadji
Shifted to Jedhe College later
Contributed to Construction business
Life revolved around earning well
Emphasis on founding Educational Organizations
Man of great vision, Sudhakar, Sudhakar || 3 ||

Arts, Commerce, Science Colleges in both mediums at Narhe
Commenced Training for Higher degrees in Education Science
Began seven Nursing College Institutions
With fifteen hundred promising employees
Continuous classes from K.G. to P.G
Provider of livelihood to many Sudhakar, Sudhakar || 4 ||

Became Principal of Chandrakant Dangat College
Was Chairman of Nursing College Council
Later Dean at Savitribai Phule University
His books were prescribed for Degree Courses
Was conferred many titles including “VidyaVachaspati”
With a mountain of degrees Sudhakar, Sudhakar ||5||

Laid more emphasis on Engineering and Medical Colleges
And on hostels for poor students
Surekhatai exercised disciplined control on girl students
Sons Jayprakash and Shardul carrying on glorious legacy
Jadhvar Family scaled the pinnacle of Achievements
A real Architect of Successful Life Sudhakar, Sudhakar ||6||

Bharat Dhavare



Grandfather Mr. Tulshiram Dajiba Jadwar, father Kai. Shri. Uddhavarao Tulshiram Jadwar,
Elder brother Mr. Dinkar Jadwar, Madhale Bandhu Kai. Madhukar Jadwar, Principal Dr. Sudhakararao Jadwar
and younger brother Shri. Madhavrao Jadhav

SUDHAKAR

He always narrates noble thoughts to us
He makes us realize bitter truths of life
He wears a simple human appearance
But for me he is like “Swami Vivekanand”
With tremendous hard work he has won the battle of life
My only prayer is that he remains forever a man of Character, a
Man of Success
Many diamonds may fade, Shining jewels may lose their shine
But our Sir’s thoughts will keep on illuminating the world like the
Sun
I feel like devoting my life to him forever and ever
Why just a thumb like Ekalavya, I would lay down my entire life
at his feet.
The earth may bend down, the sky may dry up
But in front of Sir, every catastrophe will calm down
He has blessings and boons from the Almighty
That for whatever destinations in mind, the path will appear
clearly in front
He has coined so many poems and gazals
On pains and trials in your life and mine
Sir, to live through hard travails of life
You have always given us support with your advice
I am dedicating this little poem at your feet
And I shall always yearn to have your hand on my back.

Vaishali Shingare

S. Y. B. Com.