

Sahebdada's Aagna : Our Way to Salvation !

~ Hetanbhai Patel (C.A.-Mumbai)

Guru Aagna

Significance of Guru Aagna, humongous tussle encountered while following the Aagna & the final outcome, is all bundled in this real, life-threatening incident that I am motivated to share with Hari-Bhakto, purely as a tribute to Guruvarya Param Pujya Sahebdada.

Background

Sometime in the year 1992, a British Nun by the name 'Pujya Stefani' was driving on A40 passing by Anoopam Mission, Denham, UK when, in her own words, she felt a divine force pulling her to enter the temple campus. With a curious mind, she followed the divine power and was warmly greeted by Pujya Himat Swami. She inquired about the history and background of Anoopam Mission and on seeing Param Pujya Sahebdada's Murti, Pujya Stefani started communicating with the Murti as if Param Pujya Sahebdada was present before her, in person. In fact, Param Pujya Sahebdada was then physically present in Mogri. Pujya Stefani started praising Param Pujya Sahebdada's divinity and proclaimed that "in a hundred years, one such soul is born". She expressed the desire to meet Param Pujya Sahebdada and for that she was willing to travel from UK to Brahmajyoti, Mogri-India.

Plans were finalized for Pujya Stefani with her sevak to travel to Anoopam Mission, Mogri via Mumbai. However, on the scheduled date, sudden plans were made for Param Pujya Sahebdada to travel for a few days to far distant villages of Gujarat for some satsang work. That's when Param Pujya Sahebdada called me to host Pujya Stefani and her sevak at my residence in Versova, Mumbai for a few days until Param Pujya Sahebdada returned to Brahmajyoti. During Pujya Stefani's stay with us, she disclosed her super-natural powers to us, that she could see the past and the future of the person in front of her. We were delighted to hear from her that Sahabdada is the Divine Messenger of God. Amongst many anecdotes shared, Pujya Stefani revealed my past and present life,

completely true as if she was reading a book. This gave us the faith that Pujya Stefani had super-natural divine powers. It was then that she got serious and shared a message about my family [consisting of my spouse Anita and daughter Prarthna aged about 3]. She said it would be disastrous for us to have a second child because she could see that this would result in the demise of the mother or the newly born child. Anita and I took this instruction seriously as though it was a straight Aagna from Param Pujya Sahebdada, with the logical understanding that (i) Pujya Stefani has come into our life because of Param Pujya Sahebdada and (ii) generally, Param Pujya Sahebdada would refrain from getting into such worldly talks so He spoke to us through Pujya Stefani.

At Mogri, Pujya Stefani routinely started revealing past and future circumstances of many satsangis, at times also divulging dark secrets about a family member to another, creating rift amongst family members. Within hours of this happening, Param Pujya Sahebdada immediately reprimanded Her to stop because Anoopam Mission's goal is to cultivate harmony, unity and affection amongst the family and society at large.

My spiritual growth trajectory

As per my spiritual growth trajectory designed by none other than Param Pujya Sahebdada, in a few months post meeting Pujya Stefani, Anita conceived with our second child. With complete clarity and faith that the Aagna of not having a second child is from Param Pujya Sahebdada, although communicated through Pujya Stefani, we immediately scheduled an abortion the next morning at 8 am. The previous evening, I thought to myself that such an important decision had to be informed to Param Pujya Sahebdada. Over a trunk call (those days to book an intercity call was through the telephone exchange) I narrated to Param Pujya Sahebdada the entire incident with Pujya Stefani, expecting an instant ok from Param Pujya Sahebdada. Instead, there was a pause in our

conversation and thereafter Param Puja Sahebada asked us to hold the abortion by a day and to call Him back the next day. We did exactly that and the next day, to our utter surprise, Param Puja Sahebada instructed us to go ahead with the pregnancy.

A million thoughts flashed in my mind that Puja Stefani could clearly see the future, had warning us not to have a second child, and yet Param Puja Sahebada asked us to do the exact opposite. I thought, "Oh God! Has Param Puja Sahebada missed an important link? What to do? Should we still go ahead with the abortion?" It is at that most vulnerable moment Param Puja Sahebada gave us the strength to follow his Aagna and with a drag, we decided to go ahead with the pregnancy.

After a few weeks when medically abortion was no longer an option, hell started breaking loose on us. Anita started facing life threatening medical problems ... bleeding, piles, fluid drying, body unable to cope up. I went through the toughest spiritual cross road ... is Puja Stefani more powerful than Param Puja Sahebada? Had we taken the right decision in following Param Puja Sahebada's Aagna instead of Puja Stefani? Will Anita survive? What will I do with two kids without her? My life would be ruined... the only option was to pray Swaminarayan.. Swaminarayan.. Swaminarayan. Each day of those 6 months I visualized death and with shaking faith, looked upon Param Puja Sahebada. To me, there was no other solace other than Param Puja Sahebada as He had engulfed me in every aspect of my life.

The D-day came, and Param Puja Sahebada still did not offer me the olive branch as Anita went through the toughest labour for about 10 hours followed by C-section. The Baby was huge, at 10 pounds, in a tiny 4'11 inches frame and refused to be born. Truthfully, while I kept reciting Dhun, my sub-conscious mind was getting ready for the dreadful news; such was my shallow thinking. At last, the Baby was born but the agony (read it as Guru's designed testing times) continued. The Baby was born profusely bleeding with a four inch cut on her face as the doctor's knife pierced deeper than required, cutting the

Baby's face. The agony did not subside here. The Baby had the most torrid, unhealthy first 12 months, until her first birthday.

Rest, as they say is history. With Param Puja Sahebada's blessings, the Baby survived, as well as Anita. A few years later, I had an occasion to meet Puja Stefani again in Mogri. She called me aside to say that while she was absolutely right in her prediction, however in that one day when Param Puja Sahebada asked me to hold the abortion, He prayed and changed the fate of the Baby to be born. Param Puja Sahebada never predicts the future, but His supremacy is such that what He states becomes the future.

As I emote, it has been more than three decades now and the blessed Baby, also referred to as Prapti, and my wife Anita are both besides me in the journey of uplifting our Soul. And as if to complete the circle that began in the UK, with the sheer blessings of Param Puja Ashvindada, Prapti is presently pursuing her masters at the prestigious London Business School.

The Gospel

While we are all mortals, in the journey to attain salvation with the blessings of our Guru, the key gospels are

- * *Param Puja Sahebada is the Karta-Harta (All doer) in our life & equally true is that He is our Heetkari (well wisher).*
- * *In tough situations encountered in our life, these are created by none other than Param Puja Sahebada, only & only to give the necessary push towards the final destination. Just have unconditional faith in all that Param Puja Sahebada preaches.*
- * *With Param Puja Sahebada's blessings, we have all embarked on the journey to salvation & there is no way that Param Puja Sahebada is going to let go of us. So, it is in our interest that we follow His Aagna to the tee and shorten our journey in reaching the final destination at the Lotus feet of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan.* ◆