

|| The Power of Guru Aagna ||

~ Anand Popat (U.K.)

This Year 2025 is the celebration of Guru Aagna Mahima Parva. I have been extremely fortunate to have the blessings of Guruhari Sahebji since I was born and I firmly believe that He has looked after me at every step of my life journey until now. His countless blessings and continuous prayers have been with all of us.

The time I required the most support in my life was when I was 18 years old and awaiting my exam results to be able to gain admission into the University of my choice. I wanted to study Optometry in order to become an Optometrist / Optician. I already had made a condition with God in my mind that I only wanted to attend the specific University in London (The City University) for my study and I did not wish to go anywhere else in the UK! At the time only 6 Universities had this course available across Great Britain - including Scotland and Wales. My father Ashwin Popat who is also an Optometrist went to the same University and I wanted to attend the same Institution! I had been offered a provisional place by the University but when the results came I unfortunately did not achieve the grades required to gain my place at the University. I was told that all the places on the course had been taken and my options were to re-take my exams and apply again

next year or to simply find another subject to study. This is when I reached a low point both mentally and spiritually. I felt all the prayers and blessings had been in vain and I now did not know what the next step was.

At this time it was August and Guruhari Sahebji was in the US at the Anoopam Mission Youth Camp In Pocono Mandir. He had also requested my father to attend the camp and help educate the campers spiritually. I was extremely upset and wanted to

speak with Guruhari Sahebji on the phone. I was also upset as my father was not with me in the UK. I explained the situation and Guruhari Sahebji was so calm and His simple Aagna or instruction to me was "Dhun Chaalu Rakhje Ane Bhagwan Saras Karshe Tari Mate". This translates as 'Keep

praying and chanting the Swaminarayan Mantra and God will grant you the best outcome". I told Him this would be very hard for me because all the prayers I had done until now had not helped my results and situation despite being so dedicated. Guruhari Sahebji then said something so casually that I could not believe His words - He said "Could someone not give up their University place for the Optometry course and you obtain their place instead?" I told Him that this is not even a possibility as why would anyone want to give up their chance



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to study the course after working so hard for it! After this conversation I was still upset and did not feel motivated to pray. However I had to keep His Aagna in my mind and continued to pray. Nearly 4-6 weeks passed and it was time in late September to actually enrol into University and begin the course.

During this time I was looking into other subjects to study but none of them were of interest to me and I was also de-motivated to retake any exams. I also had tried every week to call the Secretary at the University asking if any places had become available. The response was always negative and I was told to look at other options. Then the miracle occurred - on a September morning my house telephone rang and my mother ran to wake me up telling me that the University Secretary was on the phone! I woke up half asleep and answered the phone. The same secretary that had always given me a negative response said to me "Mr Popat I would like to inform you that a student who wanted to study Optometry has decided to study

Dentistry instead and so we have a place available for the Optometry course and we would like to offer the place to you first! Do you accept?" I honestly thought I was dreaming and could not believe her words! My eyes opened wide and I said "Of course I would like to accept!" I put the phone down and screamed with excitement and from that moment thought of Guruhari Sahebji and His words- I knew that He had made this happen for me!! As they say

the rest is history and my dreams came true - I went on to start the Optometry course the week after and gained my Degree and Professional Qualification after 4 years. I am now working with my father running 2 Optical practices for the last 20 years!

Although I had always believed In Guruhari Sahebji, this Prasang cemented my genuine belief that He is a true Gunatit Purush or God Realised Saint. He is aware of the pathway for each individual devotee and prays for our wellbeing and spiritual progress. His greatness and humility is

such that He can come across as our friend but we have to remind ourselves that He has attained God Realisation and has a direct connection with His Guru Yogiji Maharaj and Lord Swaminarayan. Everything He says or instructs us is going to be of benefit to us. It is our responsibility to fulfil his Aagna and instructions and have firm conviction that whatever the outcome, it is happening due to Gods Will. This prasang taught me to trust in the power of the Swaminarayan Mantra and that

it is our lifeline to all that we will face in our lifetime. I am so grateful that we have Guruhari Sahebji as our Divine Spiritual Leader and know that He is holding my hand every step of the way. We pray for His continued Good Health as we celebrate the Swaminarayan Mandir Dashabdi Mahotsav, Guru Aagna Mahima Parva and Sarvopari Upasana Sopan in August 2025!

Jai Shri Swaminarayan!

