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Generation Gap

Questioner: We make every effort to improve them, but even then if they do not improve, should we as ideal parents leave it to their destiny (*prarabdha*)?

Dadashri: No, but you are making these efforts in your own way, aren't you? Do you have a certificate? Will you show it to me?

Questioner: Our efforts are based upon whatever our intellect shows.

Dadashri: I will give you an example of what your intellect is like. What kind of a verdict would a person issue when he himself is the judge, the lawyer, and the defendant?

Having said that, you should never resign [the efforts in raising your child]. You should keep looking after him. If you resign [in looking after him], then there will be no hope for him. A child indeed brings his inculcated values (*sanskaar*) with him, but you need to help with that and nurture those values.

Questioner: Yes, so I do that, but in the end, should I leave it to destiny?

Dadashri: No, you cannot leave it [up to destiny]. If it comes to that, then bring them to me and I will do the 'operation' for you. You cannot let go, that is dangerous.

Discourage Him When He Pulls the Father's Moustache;

Encourage Him With a Reward for Studying!

There was a father who became delighted when his child was tugging at his moustache. He cried out, "What a child! Look, he pulled my moustache!" For goodness sake, if you allow him to do as he pleases, he grabs on to your moustache and keeps pulling at it, even then you don't say anything to the him, then what is going to happen? If you do not do anything else, then at least give the child a slight pinch so the child will realize that he is doing something wrong. He

will realize that what he is doing is wrong. You should not hit the child a lot, just give him a slight pinch.

So, he should realize that whenever he pulls on the moustache, in return he gets a pinch. He is seeking out knowledge (*gnan*). What is learnt by doing this? If you encourage him by saying, “Very good, what a wonderful son I have,” then he receives encouragement. Then he will pull even more next time!

In every matter, you should give the understanding to your child, that, “This is wrong.” He should realize it. Otherwise, he will believe that whatever he is doing is correct. So then he ends up on the wrong path. Therefore, you should tell the child.

I have to scold all those who stay with me. Do you think I don’t understand? Why would I tarnish my Soul? But is the Soul going to get tarnished by scolding? If I do not scold, then the liability falls upon me. And if he is doing something good, then you should say, “Son...” You should pat him on the back, so he gets some encouragement.

Questioner: So are you saying that we should praise everyone and get work done?

Dadashri: You cannot praise him for any wrongdoing. You have to make him understand that this is not the way to do things. [Explain to him,] “Whose lineage do you belong to, whose son are you?”

Questioner: What if he has done something good?

When he has done something good, then you should praise him for that. And where should he be patted? When we pat someone on the back, the ego gets encouragement. So then he will do a good job once again.

When you [say,] “Well done, son,” and pat him on the lower back, that is where the ego resides. So the ego receives encouragement from there. That is why people pat others on the back. However, they do not know how to pat. They are no longer aware of where it [the ego] resides.

The ego of a young child is in a latent state. The ego certainly exists, but it exists in a compressed state. It develops as the child grows. A small child will grow to be a good child as long as you do not unnecessarily 'water' the undesirable ego. If the [undesirable] ego does not get food from you, then the child will become inculcated with excellent values (*sanskaar*).

The Father Says, Look My Child Sticks His Hand in My Pocket;

You Mortal, You Gave the Child a Hand in Becoming a Thief?!

People do not even have a clue of how to be parents! A father was saying that his little boy stood on his toes and removed twenty-five paisa from his coat pocket. In India, they have a twenty-five paisa coin, he removed that from the father's pocket. His father, who was sitting there, saw all this and thought, 'The boy has become so smart now!' So the father called his wife, who was cooking in the kitchen. "What do you want? I am cooking!" she called back. He exclaimed, "Come here, come quick, come quick, come quick." So she came running asking, "What is it?" Then he exclaimed, "Look! Look how clever our son has become! He stood up on his tippy toes and reached into my coat pocket and took out twenty-five paisa!" So the son thinks to himself, 'Today I have done the best thing ever! Now I have learnt how to do this kind of work!' So he becomes a thief. So what would happen?! He has gained the knowledge that it is acceptable to pick someone's pocket. What do you think? Why are you not saying anything? Should such a thing be done?

Questioner: No.

Dadashri: How can all this be acceptable? The child kept wondering, 'Wow. What a wonderful thing I did. My mom and dad are praising me.' You fool! You are turning your child into a thief. Why did you get married without understanding this? You have to understand this. Such people should not even be allowed to get married. You've become the father of a child? What kind of nonsense is this?

Just drop it! You nutcase, where did you come from? How did you end up becoming a father! Don't you have any shame? Do you realize the kind of encouragement your child received? Your child thinks that he has accomplished something great! Does it suit you to be robbed like this? Shouldn't there be awareness that, 'By saying this, the child will get appropriate encouragement, and by saying that, he will get misguided'? These are all untested fathers and untested mothers. The father is like a radish and the mother is like a carrot; so tell me, how would the children turn out? They would certainly not turn out to be apples!

"He took money out of my pocket. How smart has he become." Is saying such a thing helpful or does it cause damage? How is saying such a thing helpful? The boy will learn to steal. And such are these people, the father is like this and the mother is like that! Hey, why don't you slap him so that he will understand that taking money out of the pocket is wrong knowledge! And encourage him when he does something good. But do people say such things? Or is this something I have fabricated?

Questioner: It is a fact.

Dadashri: Does a child stand on his tippy toes and take the money out of the pocket? Or am I fabricating this?

Questioner: No, it is not a fabrication.

Dadashri: This is the type of 'stock'. All this 'stock' is rubbish, and that too, it is from the four eras of the time cycle. It was first sifted in the era of the time cycle characterized by unity of thoughts, speech, and action (*Satyug*) and whatever did not filter through was thrown into *Dwaparyug* (an era of moral deterioration and decreased purity). It then got sifted in the *Dwaparyug*, and whatever did not filter through was thrown into *Tretayug* (an era of further moral deterioration and decreased purity). That which did not filter through in *Tretayug* has come in current era of the time cycle, which is characterized by lack of unity in thought, speech, and action (*Kaliyug*). Now this is the residue through which I am putting a sieve. Whatever

gets through this filter is through, and for the rest, God knows what will become of them! Whoever is filtered through our sieve will become *ekavtari* (a person who will attain liberation after just one more life), or after two more lifetimes or five more lifetimes, but some solution will come!

In all this talk, would I or would I not have that much awakened awareness (*jagruti*)?

Questioner: Indeed, you would.

Dadashri: I have complete awakened awareness. There is a lot more awakened awareness. The amount of hair that is on my head, that is how much awakened awareness prevails within me.

The one whose awakened awareness prevails in all angles, how can he become trapped?

Whereas people doze off to sleep even when the slightest breeze is felt!

So the parents of this era of the time cycle (*Kaliyug*) do not know all of this, and they give so much wrong encouragement. They carry their children around. The wife insists that the husband carries their toddler. She tells him, so he picks up the child. What can he do? If he is strict, then he will refuse, so she will nag at him, “Is he only my child? It should be an equal partnership.” She will say such things. So then he would have to carry the child. Does he have a choice; where would he go? Where would he go? So he has to carry the child to the movies, creating hustle and bustle. How would the child get inculcated with values?

To Express Sternness in the Home, That Is Non-Violence!

Otherwise, the Family Will Become Spoiled, What Kind of Father Is That?

Children have gone on the wrong path because of your provocation. Are you responsible for that or not? Therefore, bring about normality in everything. Maintain love in one eye, and strictness in the other. Strictness does not harm the other person much; anger causes a lot of damage. Strictness does not mean anger, but sternness (*foofado*). Even when ‘we’ go to work, ‘we’ express sternness, “Why are you doing this? Why aren’t you working?” In worldly

interaction (*vyavahaar*), in any situation, whatever intent (*bhaav*) is required, if that intent does not arise there, then that worldly interaction is considered to have spoiled.

A bank manager tells me, “Dadaji, I have never said a single word to my wife or son or daughter. No matter what mistakes they make, no matter what they do, I do not say anything.” He was expecting that I would praise him. You understood the expectations he was maintaining, didn’t you?! Instead, I became very irritated with him and said, “Who made you a bank manager? You do not even know how to manage your own wife and children!” So the poor man was shocked. But I told him, “You are the most worthless person. You are of no use in this world.” The man thought, ‘If I tell him this, then Dada will give me a big reward. You fool, does this deserve a reward? When your child does something wrong, you must ask, “Why did you do this? From now on, don’t do things like this.” You should scold him ‘dramatically’ [as you would in a drama]. Otherwise, the son will think that whatever he is doing is certainly correct, because his father has accepted it. Because this man has never said anything, everyone in the house is out of control. You should say everything, but ‘dramatically’! You should sit your children down every night and explain things to them, converse with them. Will you not have to sweep the dust out of every corner of your home? All children need is a little prompting. They already have inculcated values (*sanskaar*), but they need prompting. Is there anything wrong in prompting them?

Aarti and Prayers Instill Values in the Home!

Inward and Outward Purity, Through Such Ambience!

You should teach your young sons and daughters to worship God every morning after they bathe, and have them say, in short, daily, “Grant me and the world the right understanding, carry out the salvation of the world.” If they say this much, then they are considered to be inculcated with good values, and your bondage as parents has been released. You should also have them sing ‘*Dada Bhagwan Na Aseem Jai Jai kar Ho*’ every day. So many children in

India have improved to such an extent that they have stopped going to movies. At first they object, but after a few days, after getting used to it, after getting a taste of it, they, on the contrary, remember to do it.

Questioner: What is the importance of doing *aarti* (ceremony that involves waving lamps in front of an idol or photo of God and singing devotional praise) at home?

Dadashri: There is no other importance of doing *aarti* except that you receive the result of *aarti*. The result of *aarti* that you receive here in my presence, you will not receive anywhere else. But, that [*aarti* done at home] is your own arrangement. But even then, you will get very good result of *aarti*, even when you do it at home. Therefore, everyone has arranged it accordingly so that the environment doesn't get spoiled all day long. The environment in all homes is full of nothing but conflict. Now if *aarti* is arranged, then in the span of the entire day, there will be some change in the children and everyone else in the home. And the children and everyone else participates in the *aarti*. So then the minds of those children remain good. And the children who are riled up, what about those children? With this blazing heat, being riled up, and bad company (*kusang*) outside the home, they keep having thoughts of misconduct (*kucharitra*). This [*aarti*] will calm them down; it will expel those thoughts. This is a tool to save them. It is very beautiful. Many even do it twice a day, in the morning and in the evening. Children do participate in the *aarti*, don't they? And the adults do not get into conflict. The environment is filled with nothing but conflict. These days, even if one does not want to get in any conflict, he may have money, he may have everything, yet conflict will arise within him. He bangs on the table when he is sitting down to eat. Does he bang on it or not? "You did this and you did that," and everything begins from there. Does it not? Therefore, many people at home have decided that after dinner, everyone, the husband, the wife and the children should all do the *vidhi-aarti-aseem jai jai kar ho* together. So the children become regular [balanced] and sensible. If the next day he asks about going out, then you should tell him, "Let's recite

that...let's recite that..." You should say that. They'll forget about going out and good values will become instilled.



**What Is The Point of Whining About That Which Is Mandatory!****Years Gone By In Fulfilling Duties;****It Is Worth Mere Pennies!**

Dadashri: How old are you?

Questioner: Fifty.

Dadashri: Now, if you are going to live a hundred years, half of your life is already gone and half remains. And you [talking to the son] have a lot that remains as a balance. So, you should keep your father happy. He has already used up fifty of it. Did you not ask your father in what he used up the fifty years?

Questioner: No, I have not.

Dadashri: Where must he have used up so many of them?

Questioner: In raising us.

Dadashri: In raising you?

Questioner: That responsibility...

Dadashri: Yes...this responsibility. That is why his hair has turned grey. It is a problem, is it not? One realizes that only after he gets married; at first it seems to be so pleasant. Then, when the 'wagon' has to be pulled, that is when the 'engine' realizes all of this. He will know about worldly life after he gets married. Prior to that, everything seems alluring! You will have to get him married too now, isn't it!

All Duties Are Mandatory;**Otherwise You Will Get Kicked By Everyone!**

Questioner: But in worldly interaction (*vyavahaar*), is one bound to carry out his duties?

Dadashri: It is entirely mandatory. There is no need to maintain your duty, it is indeed mandatory. If you do not carry out your worldly interaction, then the people around you will

say, “Why don’t you pay your child’s fees? Pay them! Where will the children go otherwise?” And you respond, “Why are you interfering in my matters?” They reply, “We would not interfere, but don’t you have to pay the fees?” Hence, this is mandatory. People will come to complain. And if you beat up your son excessively, even then people will complain.

Questioner: We do have duties towards our children, do we not?

Dadashri: Fulfill your duties. Are you doing him some kind of a favor by fulfilling your duties?

Therefore, it is mandatory. If you do not do it, then everyone will say, “What kind of a man are you? You are not getting your son married off?” And if you tell them that you do not have the money to do so, they will tell you, “Borrow the money and get him married. Get your son married, he has become of age.” So, like it or not, you will have to do it. You are not doing him any favors. How many duties do you have? However many duties you have, they are all mandatory.

Educating Your Children Is Duty-Bound!

You Did Not Listen to the ‘Voice’ of the Self, Only to the Duties!

Questioner: So, one has to live in this illusion of worldly interaction.

Dadashri: It’s like this; the overdraft that you have taken out from the bank, it certainly has to be repaid in full amount, doesn’t it! When you were borrowing the money, simultaneously you indeed gave a promise that, “Sir, no matter what becomes of me, even if I become entitled to attain liberation (*moksha*), I will certainly repay you and then go. And in case I do not become entitled to attain liberation, even then I will complete the payment.” You gave such a promise, isn’t it! Similarly, all these promises in worldly interaction have to be fulfilled and moreover it is mandatory. You do not do anything at your will. It is mandatory, completely duty-bound!

What do all these parents do? They raise their children, give them an education, and everything else that they do; that is all duty-bound, not will-bound. But people believe that to be will-

bound, that in itself is an illusion. How can you make someone obligated to you for what is duty-bound? I am duty-bound, so it does not even cross my mind to make you feel obligated to me. I realize that this is duty-bound; it is indeed dependent on another entity!

Do Not Rub In, Duties Which You've Fulfilled;

Find Out, What Is Voluntary, Accomplish It in This Lifetime!

As parents, you may have incurred a debt of five thousand to educate the children; nevertheless, if one day your son happens to behave rudely with you, you should not be quick to tell him, "We are the ones who put you through school!" You were actually duty-bound, it was mandatory. You did what was mandatory. You fulfilled your duties. *Farajiyat* means duty-bound, whereas *marajiyat* means will-bound. People believe [that which is] duty-bound to be will-bound. Hey you, worldly life is being woven in the direction of where your willingness lies. Within that which is mandatory, you are drawing up a design of what you would like to have. That which can be changed is will-bound. Many children disobey their father; at that time, the father becomes angry and he rubs it in that, "I am the one who educated you, trained you, raised you." Hey, that was mandatory. Why don't you tell him of what you did that was done voluntarily! That which is compulsorily bound to come to you, why are you listing all of that out?! Find out what has been [done] voluntarily!

Why Should There Be an Accolade For That Which Is Mandatory?

If You Settle With Equanimity, Then You Are Wise!

Have you ever done any work voluntarily?

Questioner: No.

Dadashri: So then, have you done something that is mandatory? Would there be any reward for that which is mandatory?

Questioner: There would not.

Dadashri: Yes. There would be a reward for that which is [done] voluntarily. There was a man who was seeking a reward for that which is mandatory! The entire world seeks a reward, [they say,] “I did this much, you have no idea, you don’t value me.” Hey *mooah*, what appreciation are you seeking, what you did was mandatory! A man was telling off his son, he was getting out of hand; then I scolded him. The father was telling the son, “I incurred debt to educate you. Otherwise, had I not incurred debt, then it’s not like you would have gotten an education, you would be nowhere.” *Mooah*, why are you going on and on unnecessarily! That is actually mandatory, you cannot say such things! So, the son is sensible, isn’t he? What would you have said if the son asked you, “Who was it that educated you?” People say crazy things, don’t they? Uneducated people, they don’t have understanding, they have no awareness. They lack awareness in these matters. They lack awareness in scientific matters; they have awareness in what is in their self-interest. Wherever it is, all they know is what is in their self-interest. Now that self-interest is moreover in the interest of the non-Self.

“You are paying for my [school] fees, so who paid for yours? What’s so new about that?” the son will say. That is actually mandatory; what is that you gave in that? You aren’t fulfilling your duties; this is actually mandatory. Settle these files with equanimity, then your dignity will remain, otherwise you will lose your dignity. Therefore, a father cannot express the egoism that, “I am the one who put you through school.” This is because to educate [the children] is all mandatory.

The Act of Giving Happiness Ends Up Being Mandatory,

The Intent You Made of Giving, That Is Voluntary!

One distinguished man tells me, “I have fulfilled duties of all kinds, I have fulfilled all the duties in the office...” Tell me, what duties are you fulfilling? What do you understand to be duties? He says, “No, I definitely must do it, there is no choice. I must do work.” I tell him, “*Mooah*, why are you doing it? Are you not duty-bound?” He replies, “Yes, I am duty-bound.”

Hey, at least understand the meaning of duty-bound! The words are not wrong, are they? People should understand them, shouldn't they?

Have you fulfilled your duties?

Questioner: Yes.

Dadashri: And moreover, he thinks that he has fulfilled many duties. He takes satisfaction out of that. Hey, but why are you taking satisfaction out of that, this was all actually mandatory! Show me what you have done that was voluntary? All this is mandatory. Do you take a bath mandatorily or voluntarily? What have you done that is voluntary?

Questioner: I will have to figure it out. Dada, when one gives his own happiness to others, that is actually considered mandatory, isn't it?

Dadashri: That is mandatory. You gave it away, so it was mandatory, and the intent of giving, that is done out of your own will. If this soup is salty, then your intent is to accept it quietly. That is the part that is done out of your own will, but the mandatory thing that happened was that you ended up saying, "This soup is salty." What is the intent? It is considered to be a seed. What happens when it sprouts? That seed sown in the past [life] is giving result now. [Result] Of the seed sown in the past [life]. Do you understand this or not?

Questioner: Yes, yes.

Dadashri: There is a shortcoming in understanding this.

Questioner: No, no, I do understand it.

Dadashri: If you fail to understand this, then stop at that point.

'We' too feel that 'our' time was well spent. People look for it in books; how would they find it there? The books [tell you,] fulfill your duties, and so on. Hey *mooah*, the writers have written this, and those who give talks will say, "We should fulfill our duties. Fulfill your duties well." Hey *mooah*, what are you teaching, meaninglessly, you crazy person. You are crazy and you

are trying to make me crazy too? What is the need to do your duties? This same very confusion continues on.

Be Careful With Your Children from the Start;

Let Go of This Meddling, Otherwise It Will Start Up a War!

I had a cousin who was a contractor. He kept meddling with his son. I asked him, “Do you not keep a photo of my uncle?” He said, “Of course, I have one.” I told him, “So do you maintain reverence towards it?” He replied, “I do not do anything like that.” I told him, “So, will these children treat you with reverence?” He said, “No one would do that.” I said, “Why don’t you settle down? Why are you taking beatings due to illusory attachment (*moha*)? Why don’t you straighten up!” He replied, “Now I understand. Otherwise, I used to think that I indeed have to do this!” Then I explained to him that, it reflects badly on you if you do not educate your son. Even if you do not get him married, people will say, “He wants to get married and even then you are not getting him married?” Once he gets married and settles down in his job, then you are done with your responsibilities. Then if you interfere, people will say, “This old man still does not leave him alone. He remains stuck [meddling] there.” Hey, you were siding with him [the son] in the past, and even now you are still siding with him? But that is considered as worldly justice. This is worth understanding. Everyone takes a beating and does ‘good for others’, and [the children] do not feel any obligation for that. If the children understand that their father has obliged them a lot...

Questioner: They don’t do that either.

Dadashri: God knows what will become of them.

Then people will say that you have learned so much from Dada’s teachings and yet your inner tendencies remain fixated on your children. When people say this, would you not understand that people have started looking at you differently? They are saying it lawfully [out of your karmic account], otherwise they would not tell you anything. Now that you have helped him

settle down, you do not owe him anything anymore. So then you should take care of your own matters. All the wealth you have is also yours, not your child's. So how far did I say your obligation towards your child goes? Tell me.

Questioner: Until he finishes his education and starts earning.

Dadashri: You should keep an eye on him a little until he gets a job and settles down. Thereafter, you cannot keep going to him and telling him, "You are not running your business properly." What happens if you keep telling him that? What will his wife say? She will say, "My father-in-law is very bad." That is what she comes and tells me. "We live separately, but even then he does not leave us alone." See, you went to do good for your son and his wife rewards you in this way! So, you take such a beating. When the son says, "I am fine now," he is freeing you. What do you think? Even people will tell you, "You have attained Dada's *Gnan*, and so why are you still doing so much for your child?" People will tell you both ways. If you do not pay for his education, people will tell you that, too. So you will have to listen to people. You should understand how much obligation you have towards your child. Once he is settled, tell him, "If you have any shortage of money, write to me." And if he says, "Dad, I am very happy," then you should not interfere.

Educating and Settling Him Down Is Enough;

Take Care of Your Wealth, Act Maturely!

You should take care of your own wealth, do not give it away. Do not give out your money. Otherwise, after you give it, if you ask for it back, he will not give it back to you. And when you tell him, "Give me about ten thousand," he will tell you, "I am short of money myself, how can I give it to you?" You gave him the money and now are you crying about it? If you let the cattle out in the middle of the night and then say, "Come back, come back," then will they come back? You should keep your wealth to yourself, and tell your son, "You take care of your own needs, I'll be fine." Secure your wealth.

Questioner: So, is that not selfishness on our part?

Dadashri: Why are you looking at selfishness (*swarth*) or for the good of others (*pararth*)?

This is not *swarth* at all; it is nothing but *pararth*. You are living for others. It is *pararth*; it is neither *parmarth* (to not have selfishness for any relative thing, only for the Self) nor *swarth* (for the Self). What is considered *swarth*? ‘We’, the *Gnani Purush*, are considered *swarthi*.

And all of you have been made *swarthi*. To live for the purpose of the Self is called *swarth*.

Who is ‘Swa’? The Self! In fact, people refer to ‘Chandubhai’ as ‘I’. Hey, this is actually *pararth*! Your son will peacefully have a nice breakfast on time even at the time of your funeral!

And you think that your son will do something for you, don’t you?!

After giving him two hundred thousand, you tell him, “Give me ten thousand, I have to give it to that man tomorrow.” He will tell you, “Do not bother me while I have hardship. If you want, take about a hundred to two hundred.” Understand this and say, ‘*Jai Sat Chit Anand*. I will not forget this in my next life. I have secured my wealth.’ I have secured my wealth, so I remember all of this. Can you forget this the next time? Say *Jai Sat Chit Anand* one time and realize that you got cheated this time, but never again. What do you think? Do not worry too much about your son. If he has hardship, and if you have the money, then help him out. But what is the point of unnecessary meddling?

The old man will go there the first thing in the morning and tell his daughter-in-law, “How come the business is not running well? I do not see him making any money.” She will tell him, “He is in the bathroom. Talk to him when he comes out.” And if he tells his son, the son keeps getting irritated, “Dad, if you want to drink tea, then do so in peace. Leave me alone.” So then he should realize that who is the father here, him or his son? One has taken so many such beatings in worldly life, yet this does not go away. One has taken tremendous such beatings. From whom? From the children, of course! Do strangers give such beatings? Only the children do that. Still, there should not be any complaint from them. Those are your duties; moreover,

they are mandatory. It is not false either. People think that it is all voluntary. Did you understand all of this or not?

Questioner: I do understand it.

Dadashri: Then that is good. If you understand, then there will be a solution for it. Infinite lifetimes have passed by. Did you understand all of that? Did you secure your wealth or not? Secure it well. See how I sit here having secured my wealth.

You have so much faith that there is no other son like yours, don't you? However, you will know when you get a taste of it.

A twenty-five-year old son and a fifty-year-old father, so what would happen to the two egos? Would they collide or become uniform?

Questioner: No. but if we do not maintain an ego, then they would not collide, would they?

Dadashri: Even if you do not maintain it, nature's law is such that they are bound to collide one day. That day, you will experience *vairaag* (dispassion towards worldly life). Instead of that, why not be forewarned from the beginning, and then have *vairaag*? But *vairaag* comes on that day that you can no longer stand by these people. Should you not have become forewarned, right from the beginning? You should have been forewarned as to how far your obligation stretches, from the day Dada taught you!

Live Separately Before Differences in Opinion Arise;

God Does Not Remain Where Verbal Altercations Exist!

Yes, everyone has children, they have sons, but they are all in terms of worldly interaction. Would anyone have a child by the Real viewpoint (*Nischay*)? Why are you not saying anything? If the child is Yours through the Real viewpoint, then do things for him forever. Do not worry even if you have a conflict with him, but is he [Your child] by the Real viewpoint? He is Yours forever, he is Your very own, isn't he?

Questioner: But that is not the case.

Dadashri: After a while he will say, what happened? Therefore, everything will be gone as the karmas unfold.

One man said, “There is so much unity amongst us that we are not likely to separate from each other.” I said, “Get me a contract and have everyone sign it.” This is true as long as money is flowing nicely. What happens when there is a shortage of money? He will say, “You spoilt everything.” And so that other person will say, “Were you doing it for me? You were doing it for everyone.” “But you spoilt everything. You do not have any sense, do you!” Be cautious about this so-called unity; when he comes of age, tell him to be on his own. This is because unity has its restraint, it has a boundary, a limit. Alternatively, you can separate after having conflicts. Then they will not even look at each other. Instead of that, realize that the ‘corn’ is about to pop, so remove it from the stove right away. Otherwise, it will pop and blow all over! So remove it from the stove!

One cannot attain *moksha* without living a pure life. Your worldly interaction will have to be pure, it will have to be ideal. This living together in unity was a habit of *Satyug* (era of unity of mind, body and speech), because in *Satyug* there was no such problem at all. Everyone did what the grandfather told them to do. But what about now? Will these people remain straightforward? Therefore, it is better for everyone to be on their own, because each person has an ego, and so they will not refrain from colliding. It feels good when they collide, doesn't it? Sparks fly when they collide. Bright sparks fly when you hit someone, when you collide with someone. Hence, everything within limit is good. You should take care of the Self. Why am I teaching this?

Questioner: For attaining the Self.

Dadashri: Yes. You should do everything for your children. But, what happens when some parents do not stop, even when their children tell them that they have done enough. Understand that it is a signal for you to stop when the children themselves tell you so. What do you think?

A day will come when your son may want to start a business. You should help him do so, but the father that gets too involved is a fool. He may even get a job, in which case he may not need your help. However, you should keep aside whatever money you had planned to give him. If he ever runs into any difficulties, you should send him two thousand. On the contrary, if you keep interfering with his life, it may aggravate him and force him to tell you to stay out of his business. Some fathers take this to mean that his son is not mature and that he does not know what he says. I tell the fathers they should consider themselves blessed for becoming free from this responsibility. He, himself says no. Hey, even the neighbors say that the old man keeps interfering. And if he does not help him get a job, the same neighbors will complain, "The old man just sits around uselessly." Would they say that or not? So, you should quickly save [hang on to] whatever you have, but do not become stone-hearted either. If he says that he is in great difficulty and he needs ten thousand rupees, then you should give him two and a half thousand. Otherwise, if you give him all ten thousand, you will not get it back. He will take the ten thousand and waste away three thousand from it. If he pesters you a lot, then give him only two and a half thousand. So you need to live life systematically. It is worth understanding worldly interaction. However, some fathers keep hovering over their sons. The son will tell the father to stop doing that. Even if the son tells him, "Go away from here," the father will not leave him alone.

That Which Does Not Hinder Is Ideal Worldly Interaction;

No One Will Go With You To the Funeral Pyre, Such Is Worldly Life!

Questioner: Proper worldly interaction can only be learnt from the *Gnani*.

Dadashri: Yes. What is meant by worldly interaction? It should not hinder the other person, the other person should remain pleased, you should remain pleased, that is called worldly interaction. It is not of the Real (*Nischay*). If the children were of the Real, then you would

have remained with them even if they were to curse at you. When they die, you would die along with them. As it is, one goes and has tea and snacks on his way [from the funeral], after the death of his father. We are not criticizing that. He too is going to be a father one day. There is nothing new there. But you should know where to stand; now that you have gotten Dada's *Gnan*. Otherwise, whatever these people do it goes to waste, and it is being used for others (*pararth*). It is not towards *swarth*. *Swarth* is that which is done for the Self. It is not in *parmarth*. What does *parmarth* mean? It means for the benefit of others. But this falls under *pararth*. What is not Yours, you believe to be yours and nourish it with milk. That is gone to *pararth*. Do you understand what is *pararth*? What people do is neither *swarth* nor *parmarth*, it is *pararth*.

Questioner: Please explain that.

Dadashri: You milk a cow for others and give the milk to a dog to drink. What is in it for you in this? You milked the cow and gave the milk away to the dog. One makes five million rupees by harming others and through illicit means, he hands it over to his son and then he leaves for the funeral pyre. It is like milking the cow and giving it away to a dog. The liability is his, and his son will enjoy now. Liability is all his. The liability for all the illicit ways he obtained the wealth. He will be held accountable for this!

Questioner: If we have our heart here in *satsang* and worship, and come here on and off, then the people at home feel that this woman is neglecting her responsibilities. She herself also feels that by having more love towards God, or by coming to *satsang* like this, then will her children get neglected? So what should she do? Should she stay at home and do her worship at home, or should she come here to You? And should she sit in *satsang* longer?

Dadashri: Just 'see' what the mind, intellect, ego are doing. So let them do whatever they are doing. Let them come here if they are coming here, and if they go back home, let them do that also. Do not stay back for your children or for this!

Questioner: What is the right thing to do? Should we take care of our children or should we come to *satsang* for our own spiritual growth?

The children are being taken care of. How would you be able to take care of the children? Your own salvation should indeed be the most important religion (*dharma*). Besides, these children are already taken cared of! Are you the one making them grow? In a garden, do the rosebushes that have been planted grow in the night, or not? You just think that the roses are yours, but the rose thinks, 'It is just me. I belong to no one.' Everyone advances according to his own selfish needs. Right now, you express mad ego (*gando ahamkaar*); you behave with madness.

Questioner: If we do not water the rosebush, then it will wither away.

Dadashri: It will not come to that for sure. In fact your child will demand your attention if you do not give it to him. He may even throw tantrums.

Questioner: The other question is that, how can we strike a balance between worldly duties and religious activity?

Dadashri: Worldly duties are indeed mandatory. Parents should understand, 'The duties that we are fulfilling for our children are mandatory.' While, the child should understand, 'They have obliged me, and I should have feelings for them,' he should have such an understanding. Otherwise, he would become 'mechanical' [like a machine]. If the child feels that, 'What they have done for me is mandatory,' then his inner intent to serve his mother and father would vanish!

While fulfilling worldly duties, how can one integrate religious practices in it? If your child speaks adversely, even then you should fulfill your duties without overlooking your *dharma*.

What is your *dharma*? It is to nurture and raise your child, to guide him on to the right path. If he speaks adversely and you speak adversely too, then what would happen? He will get spoiled. Therefore, you should lovingly explain things to him once again, that, “Son, come, have a seat, this is how things are and that is how things are.” Hence, there should certainly be *dharma* while performing all your duties. If you do not allow *dharma* to enter in there, then in that ‘vacuum’, *adharma* (moral decadence) will set in. It is not possible for the ‘rooms’ to remain empty. Right now, if you leave the ‘rooms’ vacant here, wouldn’t people pick the locks and break in?

Questioner: That is right.

Dadashri: So, it should not be left vacant there. You should ensure that *dharma* is maintained there; otherwise, *adharma* will set in.

Therefore, one should perform each and every duty in accordance with *dharma*. One should not merely perform duties that come to mind, but instead perform those duties after instilling *dharma* in them, thus making them apt. Did you understand how to integrate that?

Questioner: So, does it mean that one should conduct himself by combining both the duty and the *dharma* as one?

Dadashri: No, duties are mandatory. *Dharma* means it is a natural law. There are two types of *dharma*: one is *Atmadharma* (the religion of the Self) and the other is *dharma* with the belief that ‘I am the body’, in which one can become happy. So, that which is impure and that which is bad is *adharma*, while that which is good is *dharma*. To do good for someone, to give happiness to someone, to help someone, to give alms to someone, that is all considered *dharma*. However, it is *dharma* with the belief that ‘I am this body’, that is not *dharma* which frees you from the cycle of birth and death (*muktidharma*). *Muktidharma* is *Atmadharma*, when one comes into *Swadharm*a (the true nature of the Self). I am inviting you tomorrow so that you

can follow that *dharma*, *Swadharma*. You have practiced that other *dharma* for a long time. You have done that for infinite lives. What fruit did you get for that? You earned merit karma. And while enjoying the fruit of merit karma, demerit karma (*paap*) were bound. Did you understand this connection somewhat?

Questioner: Yes, I did.

Dadashri: What is the true role of a woman in the home? All the people, women and men, in the neighborhood should be impressed by her! She fulfills her duties in such a way that the people around her become delighted. So, the true religion of a woman is to raise her children, to instill moral values into her children, and if her husband is lacking in these values, she should help him with it too. Religion is to make things better for one's family. Should one not try to make things better?

While Caring For the Husband and Children;

God's Worship Takes Place Unknowingly!

Some parents remain engrossed in the worship of God, and when they see their children, they become irritated. They become irritated with their children, within whom God resides, as they continue worshipping an idol of God; such is the devotee! How can you get irritated with your children? There is a living God present within them.

Questioner: They consider children to be a botheration.

Dadashri: A botheration! All these mothers of the world, no matter whatever bad deeds they may do in the world, but they feed their children. Therefore, they get food to eat and water to drink in this world. They feed them as they are her own children, but there is God within them, and that is why they get this result. They are at least worshipping God in the name of children, are they not? Do you understand? Even through illusory attachment (*moha*) they are worshipping God, are they not? Every living being in this world gets food to eat, why is that? It is because they feed their own children. Every living being feeds its own child, the mother

feeds the child, and that is why it gets food to eat. This is because [the child] is actually God. That is how God is being worshipped. There is God residing within, isn't there? Why does this female dog get something to eat? There is God within those puppies. She is taking care of those puppies. That is why she receives everything. The world runs based on this.

When a female dog feeds milk to her puppies, it is mandatory, she is not doing them a favor. If a calf does not drink milk for two days, then the cow will be in a lot of pain. She is feeding the calf out of self-interest. A father raises his child out of self-interest, what is new about that? It is mandatory.

The world believes that a mother breastfeeds her child for the good of the child, but ask the mothers if they are doing it for the child or themselves? When the breasts become filled with milk, they itch. These doctors know that. So, to get rid of the itch, the mother breastfeeds her baby, but you cannot say this in worldly interaction. In worldly interaction, one must feel obliged towards her.

Nature Provides For Everyone as If They Are a King!

A Fool Worries to Maintain the Family's Needs!

Before one is born, when one is about to be born, people have everything ready for him! The Lord's procession is on its way! Before a baby is born, does he have to worry, 'What about my milk once I am born?' The baby's milk and all its needs are ready! A doctor and midwife are ready, and if there is no midwife, then at least the barber's wife will be present. So there is at least some preparation or the other, according to the type of guest! Those of the 'first class' will have different preparations, for the 'second class' it will be different, and for the 'third class' it will be different. All of these classes exist, don't they? So, you have indeed come with all the preparations, so then why are you engaging in all this external visible disturbance (*kadhapo*) and internal turmoil (*ajampo*)?

If it were under your control to 'do' something, then what would you do if the beard grew on one side of your face and not on the other? If it were in your hands to 'do', then everything would be a fiasco. But it is all under the control of nature. It is never wrong, everything is systematic. There are separate teeth for chewing, separate for tearing the food. Teeth for grinding are separate. See, how wonderful is the arrangement! One gets a whole body when he is born. There are hands, legs, a nose, ears, eyes, everything; but if you stick your hand in the mouth, you will find no teeth in them. Does that mean that nature made a mistake? No, nature knows that as soon as he is born, he has to drink milk, he will not be able to digest any other food. He has to drink his mother's milk, and so if we give him teeth, then he will bite her. See how wonderful an arrangement has been made! Teeth will erupt as he needs them. There will be four first, and then the rest will erupt slowly. Whereas, when old people lose their teeth, they do not get them back.

Nature takes care in every way; it takes care of one like a king. But the fools do not know how to remain like that, so then what can one do?

A Life-Form Gets Bound in the Process of Carrying Out Duties!

It Is in Connection with the Inner Intent!

Questioner: Religion is seen in two ways. One as a religion and the other as duty. So how should we follow it?

Dadashri: Carrying out your duty is not religion. It is an offense to not carry out your duty. It is not possible to not carry out your duty, is it? You must carry it out, but it is an offense to do so with complaining and nagging. Do you ever do that?

Questioner: No.

Dadashri: So, do you carry out all your duties joyfully? When your son asks for school fees, or money for other expenses, do you happily give it to him?

Questioner: I do, but if it is for the wrong thing, then I explain to him that this is wrong.

Dadashri: You should not scold him.

Questioner: No. I do not scold anyone.

Dadashri: Is that so? That is good, otherwise one will become the boss (*dhani*) of the wife! As if there is no other boss in the world. One acts as the boss and then scolds her!

There is no need to improve this world. Everything will become fine when you yourself improve. What should you do to improve him? Give him the understanding of *dharma*. Call it *dharma*, or duty-bound, or obligations, they are all the same thing. Otherwise, what these people refer to as *dharma* is not *dharma* at all. However, you should methodically fulfill your obligations towards your child, your wife; so that indeed encompasses *dharma*. Therefore, if there is someone who is not carrying out those duties properly, then we should give him the understanding and then if he adjusts with everyone in this way, then he will indeed get happiness. However, it is not possible to establish faith in God suddenly. How can one believe in God without recognizing God first? Do you now understand how responsible you are for your children?

And many of those who attend *satsang* will say that the father is fully responsible for his children. Then when the son is in debt of two hundred thousand and it is time to help him out, the father will say, "I have nothing to do with him. He is not my son, I am not his father." Hey, *mooah*, were you saying all that up until now? So, this is like each taking care of himself. What is all the fuss about? You should fulfill your duties. You have fulfilled your duties, you educated him, helped him become an engineer. What is the problem now? How many obligations do you have to meet?

Questioner: Is there not the obligation to get him married?

Dadashri: The obligation is all there, but when you get him married, right? The obligation is not considered met until you get him married, is it? They are all obligations. And you also have an obligation to become a grandfather. What obligation is not yours? But the greatest obligation

is to raise your child, educate him and help him settle down in a job or business. This is the extent of your obligation. And if you have daughters, you must certainly get them married. And if she is not getting married, then you should look at the evidences towards that. Does she have dispassion towards worldly life or what? Now, what happens when you get your daughter, who has dispassion towards worldly life, married? If your daughter has dispassion towards worldly life, completely from all angles, and illusory attachment does not arise at all, even if you create illusory attachment for her, even then it does not arise, and you go ahead and get her married, then she will make him miserable and she will be miserable too. So, you should take all of this into consideration. You especially must get the daughters married.

What work do the people of the entire world do? They are indeed carrying out their duty, but if one does any grumbling in the process, then he incurs a karmic liability for which he has to go to an animal life-form. If he happily carries out this duties, then he comes back into a human life-form. And if duties are carried out with humility, then he goes to the realm of existence as a celestial being. Duty is carried out by everyone, but it is important to know how the obligation is met.



You Should Not Fight in the Presence of the Children...

**Worries, Today, in Spite of Nuclear Families;
Children Learn From Watching the Parents!**

Dadashri: Do you ever worry? Does it happen on some days?

Questioner: There are bound to be worries when one has a family.

Dadashri: Do you have a family of one hundred or so?

Questioner: No, it is not that large!

Dadashri: Is it as large as our Indian government recommends? “Me and her, and the two of ours. The two of us, and the two of ours, our family.”

Questioner: Just one child. The two of us, and our one child.

Dadashri: Is that so! That is your family!

Questioner: How should we teach our children *dharma* (religion; moral duty)?

Dadashri: You should embody *dharma*, and so they will automatically become the same. If you are a vegetarian, you do not drink alcohol, and you treat your wife with respect, then your children will notice that you are a very good man. They will notice how other parents fight, whereas their parents do not. When they observe this much, then the children will learn it.

Questioners: So, the children’s inculcated values depends a lot on the parents, doesn’t it? For the inculcated values?

Dadashri: That is the biggest factor. Wouldn’t it be?! The child will see you, observe you, that is how he’ll become. And if you yourself do negative things, if he sees that you keep pushing your wife around, then he will certainly become like that, won’t he? He will think that, this is what the rule is. The rule must be to push the wife around, that is why my father is doing so.

Children Take Note of the Parent’s Quarrels!

Through the Power of Justice, They Determine the Culprit!

Dadashri: Have you found yourself a nice 'sir' [husband]? You are not saying anything?

Questioner: He is indeed good. If I say that he is not good, then he will not let me back in the house.

Dadashri: When children see you fighting with your husband for a *sari*, they will wonder what kind of parents are you? How can you call them parents when they fight over just a *sari*? Even the children will feel ashamed that they've gotten such parents. I would have been better off had I had hired the parents on loan.

You should live life in a way that your child does not feel bad about it, otherwise he will go down the wrong path. Even when he is this little, if you two are having an altercation, if you are having a fight, then he will keep watching you, and when he sees you like that, that you are fighting in his presence, then the child will look at you and say to himself, 'Mom is indeed the culprit. I will give it to her when I grow up.' But he will not say a word because he knows that he will be spanked if he speaks. But they all understand. Even a small child understands who is the bad person? Like a judge, he will know who is the culprit. A child possesses so much power of handing out justice.

Every day, the husband fights with his wife in front of the children. As they observe this, they begin to think that their father is at fault. Your son may be small, but he has a keen sense of justice. Girls do not have intellect that seeks out justice. Girls will always side with their mothers. However, these [boys] with intellect that seeks justice will find the father as being at fault. If there are two to four of them, then along with assigning the fault to the father, they will even decide, 'When I get older, I'll get back at him!' Then he does so without holding back. Look, you're getting back your own capital funds.

Questioner: Dada, who is at fault in this? What is the fault of the father?

Dadashri: No. Should values not be instilled in the child?

Questioner: But what is the fault of the father in that? Where can he get them from? He does not possess the values!

Dadashri: It is like this, if you are going to fight with your wife, then you should tell her, “Not in front of the children, let’s go to the other room.” Then, go to the other room and fight, what is wrong with that?

Questioner: But one would do that if he knows in advance that it is going to turn into a fight, wouldn’t he?

Dadashri: No, he will know, he is calculating in his mind that today he is going to let her have it. Even a cracker will not go off without lighting it with a match. Yes, the stock is there, he has the accumulated stock. But it will blow up only if you light it, won’t it? So, it is a liability. That is why ‘we’ had given such a verbal whipping, if someone were to read it, then through that verbal whipping, he will understand, ‘I need to think this over.’ You will have to understand that, won’t you?

Have you ever fought in front of your children? You are saying no right now, you are covering up to save your reputation, look how you are covering up to save your reputation in front of me.

Questioner: I am trying to control it.

Dadashri: Yes, you should control it.

Your life should indeed appear such that your child feels amazed that, ‘Things are not like this in the homes of others, my mother is so great!’ Your life should be such that you do not have to teach him, he will automatically learn by observing you. And then if you fight with your husband, he will observe that too, even if he is a child this small, he will understand that these people are useless; wouldn’t he understand? He will learn that. When he sees your out-of-control life, he feels you are useless. Would a small child not understand?

Questioner: He would.

Dadashri: He understands a lot. Even a child this small will understand, because he is actually not that young. In his last life, he died at the age of eighty, plus these two years, making him eighty-two years old. All young children are not actually young. They are the ones who died at age eighty and are born again here. They have a lot of understanding. He has tremendous ego; an older person will bow down, but not him. He has that much ego.

Fight, If You Absolutely Have To, but in Privacy;

As Soon as the Child Sees It, a Mental Impression Forms!

So, you should not enter into an argument. And if you are very fond of arguing or quarreling, then go at it in another room when the children are asleep. No, if such a fondness exists, then at that moment the two of you should get it over with, but in the absence of the children. It should definitely not happen in the presence of the children. Or else when they have left for school, start fighting after that. You should not fight in their presence; you should act civilized (*sanskaari*). If you happen to make a mistake, even then your wife should say, "It's okay." And if she happens to make a mistake, then you should say, "It's okay." If the children observe this, then they will start to become all right. And if you definitely want to fight, then you should carry forward the balance. So, wait until the children are back in school, thereafter quarrel for an hour. However, if such fighting happens in the presence of the children, then they keep watching, and then negative intentions about their mother and father starts to develop at such a young age. Therefore, their ability to remain positive shatters and negativity indeed sets in. So, it is indeed the parents who spoil their children nowadays!

So, if you want to fight, then do so in private, but not in their presence. In private, behind closed doors, the two of you should bring out your sticks and duel it out.

Questioner: Instead of bringing out our sticks to duel and bind karma, it is better to close the file, isn't it?

Dadashri: There is nothing better than that, but this is for those who are fond of fighting! Besides, you may say this, but they are not likely to agree to it. It is after they get a beating that they will agree to it. The experience will be generated, won't it! Without having the experience, if you try to give them some understanding, then they will not agree.

You have taken this *Gnan*, so not a lot of questions about small children will arise for you. Before, you would keep talking even if the children were in front of you, which would instill negative values in the children. Parents simply do not keep the children in mind, such as, 'These children are standing here and what is it that we are doing?' They keep arguing senselessly and fight! Then the children become instilled with negative values. Is it not your responsibility towards the children to make sure that they do not pick up negative values? Therefore, you should reduce such conflicts. Why create *matbhed* (divisiveness that develops due to difference in opinion)? This is egoism, it is false egoism, it is madness. "I am intelligent and you are without intelligence." This very same conflict! Can a person actually be without any intelligence? But these are the types of values that get instilled in the children. Therefore, truly speaking, parents should never fight, *matbhed* should not be created. If *matbhed* has been created, then it should be retracted. The children would observe, 'Oh wow! How well our parents live with each other!'

Therefore, everything should first be cleared in the home. No one at home should become disturbed in the slightest extent. The husband should carry on with the wife with mutual understanding.

You Yourself Are the Root of All Misery;

With Constant Wrangling At Home, You Invite Miseries!

Does God have to come and beat anyone? People fight on their own. They worry on their own. They create miseries on their own, don't they! Does anyone else have to come to give them

misery? Does one create his own miseries, or do others come and do that for him? Does anyone else give rise to them?

Questioner: One himself gives rise to them.

Dadashri: Hey! A man starts eating a nice meal his wife has laid out, with the mango pulp of the expensive mangoes he bought, and he finds the *kadhee* (yogurt soup) a little too salty, then he bangs his fist on the table and says, “This *kadhee* is horrible.” You fool, have your meal peacefully! Just because you are the head of the household, you are not the boss. He thinks he is the boss, and so he flares up. The children become terrified by such outbursts. They think that their father has gone mad, but they dare not utter a single word. The poor children feel suppressed, but in their mind, they do form an opinion about their father, ‘Father seems to be crazy.’ *Mooah*, the *kadhee* was not salty, they will say. If you ask your child, “Tell me, the *kadhee* is salty, is it not?” Then he will say, “Dad, do not eat the *kadhee*, eat the rest of the food.” But when the father starts shouting, the son will say, “Dad is crazy.”

The father is showing off his ego, he is the head of the family! If there is someone like me to tell him off, he would get straightened out. Are you not ashamed of yourself, being a father? These children are making a note that dad is a crazy man. Right now, they cannot say anything. If the *kadhee* is too salty, what is wrong in setting it aside, and eating the rest of the meal peacefully? And if you absolutely must have the *kadhee*, then add some water to it. Or tell your wife with patience, “Why don’t you add some water and sweeten it with some sugar and then bring it to me?” Then the poor lady will bring it back to you like that, but why do you become excited unnecessarily?

He bought expensive mangos and he will not enjoy them. Even his wife will not be able to enjoy them. Then no one will be able to eat them, not the wife or the children. They will say that the father doesn’t even let them eat. Children understand that.