



Healthy seeds do juicy fruits make. When you retrace a person's life from death to birth, you discover many secrets of how the process took place. The omnipresent manifestation of Shiv as foreseen by Brighu, had the roots of his story in his younger days.

## ***EARLY YEARS***

If there is a God born as a horse, he will have to neigh!

When saints are born in human form, they forget their past incarnations within weeks, and restart their journeys almost from square one. Almost, because in their unconscious minds, and due to their prior conditioning or *samskaars* stored in their causal bodies or *kaarna sharirs*, their spiritual gains, attitudes and *gunas* acquired in past lives get triggered at certain points in their current incarnations. This re-learning happens much easier for them as their spirits are already rehearsed in past incarnations. Call it the Spiritual DNA.

Their destiny manipulations lead them at specific times to triggers that act like a push and pull, back to the subject. That is why Ram did not know he is The Ram who will be worshipped for lakhs of years.

The young carpenter probably saw a future in furniture making until he discovered that he was the Christ to be. It was a similar story with Prince Siddharth.

Krishna, a reincarnation of Ram, spent the first few years of his life as anything but vegan and was quite fond of village belles that did not ring!

Gurudev, too, had reached dizzy spiritual heights in previous births. Bhrgu the greatest prophet in history has predicted thousands of years ago, how Gurudev's life would be. And it was exactly as predicted.

In all the cases cited above, history was not to be created. It was merely to be enacted.

Small town upbringing, meagre family earnings, lots of limitations were the thread of the fabric on which Gurudev's life was printed.

He was fairly good looking. Rather he was good looking and fair!

Strange but true, his limitations became the roots of unlimited growth.

He was short of body but tall in spirit.

He was bad at studies but became all-knowing.

Rejected by the film Institute, he became the best real-life actor I have ever known.

His mother found him consistently and constantly absent, yet he became omnipresent!

His story was unique. I feel it should be published under the segment of fiction because it sounds almost unbelievable.

I welcome you to the pages of bewilderment.

Born and educated in Haryana near Hoshiarpur, Gurudev took a job in Delhi, lived in Gurgaon, and currently exists in all his glory at Najafgarh. What strikes me as slightly uncanny was the fact that he never had any lack of self-worth in spite of the fact that there was never much material wealth in his life.

The man used to ride his cycle to the station and back. He used to ride pillion on a cycle sometimes to go do seva during his lunch break at work. Owning a scooter was like the ultimate luxury and he bought one half way through his career and that too a second hand one. The grand finale was his premiere Padmini!

The wheels changed but Gurudev's sense of self-worth remained constant.

His home was on a 250 square yard plot, and in this small house, besides his not so small family, several disciples came to hang their boots temporarily. Hundreds would visit the sthan daily and on a *bada guruvar*, a Thursday in a month designated for seva, 40 to 50 thousand would show up for his darshan.

I don't think many kings could compete with this sense of self-worth, except maybe in the movies.

After the advent of the mahaguru, one could philosophize that the powers he had acquired, gave him inner strength, but as a youngster what made him tick?

Conjecture this, but I believe it was his latent potency, combined with an exalted destiny, that made his unconscious data filter upwards towards his consciousness.

Time to blow bubbles with Gurudev's sisters. An interesting story is coming up!

Gurudev's mother had no sons and nor did his aunt. The Mahaguru who cured through *jal* was himself born through it. Gratitude to the Mahatma of Santoksar who made this happen.

**Gurudev's sisters:** Our paternal aunt had no son nor did my mother. So, our paternal grandfather --this is what our father told us-- informed the saint that both his daughters-in-law did not have sons. So, the Mahatma at Santoksar Gurudwara gave him two fruits and jal (sanctified water) for the ladies. Then, the saint had asked my parents to name Guruji, 'Santprakash'.

The name 'Santprakash' never happened because it was not meant to. Brighu had predicted thousands of years ago that this *ansh* of Shiv will be born in a village named Haryana, and his name will start with 'Raj'. Strange but true, it rained heavily on the day he was born, so his maternal grandmother named him 'Rajinder' to honour the rain god, Inder, the ruler of *swarg* or heaven.

Let me ask you this--was he named Rajinder because it rained so timely? Or because he was meant to be named so? Brighu had predicted his name thousands of years ago. Or did it have to rain when it did, only so that he could be named Rajinder?

The simplest questions often hold the deepest secrets.

Later on, after his divinity came to the fore, he would have an independent relationship with the elements. He could will the rain to stop; the sea would caress his feet-- something I have personally witnessed; animals would respond to him in manners that were stranger than fiction.

Befitting words come to mind and I state--this was not a man who became a saint. This was a saint who became a man only to help several others become saints. Almost like setting up a saint manufacturing factory.

Back to the sisters.

Both sisters speak at the same time. Possibly the forerunner of the stereophonic technology. The incident they are describing is of a snake standing over baby Gurudev on the terrace of their home. Enjoy the muddle.

**Gurudev's sisters:** One day, after Guruji was born--our mother told us this story -- he was resting upstairs under the sun. Suddenly, a snake sat on him with its hood inflated. We still have the wooden crib in which he lay in our house. So, while Guruji was resting in the crib, the snake was seated on it.

**Q: Your mother saw that?**

**Gurudev's sisters:** Yes, she saw this. So, she asked the priest about this. The priest said, "this boy will grow up to be very capable in the future."

**Q: I heard that the saints who would visit your house during your childhood...**

**Gurudev's sisters:** Yes, they used to keep coming...

**Q:** They had once told your parents that when Gurudev turns 35 he will be very famous?

**Gurudev's sisters:** They said that he will become a Shiv *roop*. Hearing this my mom and dad started crying.

**Q:** When was this?

**Gurudev's sisters:** This prediction was made when he was a child. The saint had also told them that he will become a *sadhu*. Not exactly like a *sadhu* but he will be a form of Shiv.

**Nobody remembers who this Mahatma was but I recall Gurudev telling me this story. He had also mentioned this to Mataji.**

**Strangely, this is very similar to what happened with the Buddha, with Jesus, with Krishna and so many others. Prophecies of future greatness were made about most of them either in their childhood or at birth.**

**Subbhash Sabharwal was Gurudev's classmate in Haryana and spent many years in his acquaintanceship. When Gurudev left for Delhi, there was a disconnect in their relationship. Subbhash reconnected with his childhood friend when he discovered that he had become a guru and acquired powers to help people. After receiving the help he desired, he got involved in helping with the administrative work at the sthan. His relationship with Gurudev remained that of a 'friend' but he spent quite a lot of time at the sthan.**

**Q:** Tell me, what relationship did you share with Gurudev?

**Subbhash ji:** We were in the same school. We were classmates. It was like how kids are in school.

**Q:** So, was Guruji interested in studying?

**Subbhash ji:** No, he wasn't very interested in studies. He wasn't a brilliant student either. Even I wasn't a brilliant student. We completed primary school, but when we were in the 4th standard, India got partitioned. What happened after the Partition was that the area he was from, was a Mohammedan or Muslim-dominated area, as was mine. So, we suffered a bit of a setback. A lot of our friends were Muslim as well. We—Guruji and I—were from poor families. We used to go to the fields together, steal other people's guavas, and play pranks sometimes.

**Q:** So, you pulled all these pranks with Gurudev?

**Subhash ji:** Yes, together. There used to be a garden on the way as well, where *bers* or jujubes used to grow.

**Q:** That means Gurudev was a prankster?

**Subhash ji:** At that age, all kids are like that. Guruji was also no different. You have to pull off a few pranks.

**Q:** Then he used to get punished also?

**Subhash ji:** Everyone used to be punished.

On the way to their school was a *dargah* lined with trees bearing nice *bers* or jujubes. The theft of jujubes was responsible for making him accept all religions as his own. Can you believe that? Uncanny isn't it?

Born Hindu, prayed at two *dargahs*, later on became a spiritual associate of Guru Nanak Dev and Gobind Singh ji, networked with several rishi's and *devi devtas*--The man was a perfect example of spiritual integration even though there is no such concept in philosophy.

**Subhash ji continues.**

**Subhash ji:** There used to be a *fakir's* place on the way. He was a Muslim and his name was Sadak Shah. So, his... what do you call that?

**Q:** *Dargah*?

**Subhash ji:** Yes, the *dargah* that was made—a Muslim used to live there. We used to go there often.

**Q:** Why?

**Subhash ji:** It was on the way to school. So, we used to go there, and create a ruckus...break off *bers* from the tree. And that *fakir* used to say, "You create a lot of trouble. Now, that you've come to a *dargah*, at least bow your head here." Then, I discovered that Guruji used to go to the *dargah* without me.

**Q:** How was his behaviour with the teachers?

**Subhash ji:** You see, at that time, the kids weren't so knowledgeable compared to today's kids as there wasn't much exposure.

**Q:** No, we often make fun of our teachers.

**Subhash ji:** Everyone used to make fun of the teachers. That I also used to do and he also did.

Kids will be kids is a common dictum but in Gurudev's case, though he behaved and lived like the kid next door, there were flashes of uniqueness. He had a thirst for spiritual knowledge and would go wading in knee deep water during floods to light a *chirag* or lamp at the dargah. He enjoyed spending time with sadhus and desired to learn from them. Ironically, almost all the sadhus and saints he would meet were spiritually junior to him.

In the centuries before and during his lifetime there was no one of his stature.

The future dictates the strategies of the past, so one can understand his disinterest in studies. He may not have known it consciously at that time but he had to work in the agricultural ministry in the future, and on a spiritual level, he was to become all knowing through the opening of his third eye.

Gurudev would recite some of the most powerful mantras in the world and have complete knowledge of past, present and future. Why would a man like that want to study mundane history? Would geography be interesting for an astral traveller?

Raji Sharma was shown the chemistry of blood in a vision by Gurudev, so where would chemistry and biology fit into his landscape?

The sisters, however, share a few historical complaints:

**Gurudev's sisters:** When he would go to school, he did not study. The school staff would say that he is a kid who will never study. What will he do? My paternal aunt's son in law was a teacher in that school. He would teach kids in his home, like an academy. My mother complained to my paternal aunt's daughter, so she told her husband, "My brother does not study."

So, our brother-in-law said, "Tell him to come to study here." He would beat guruji up to make him study but Guruji would not.

The headmaster used to say, "I will not give this boy admission, else the university will break down. (*University tooth jayegi*)"

*"University tooth jayegi!"* --the good news is that never happened.

Well, when in doubt go to Ganpati. And so he did. Before he went for his exams, he threatened the Ganpati idol in their home that he would demolish it if he did not pass.

Pass he did. Possibly Ganpati did not want Punjab University to break. Gaggu shares a family tale.

**Gaggu ji:** He used to be weak at studies. He also failed once. My mother though was good in her studies. She would try to make him understand just as how brothers and sisters do. My mother appeared for an examination for one of the courses that would help her in the future, help her improve her lifestyle. He said, “God if she fails, I will offer you ladoos. If you don’t listen to me, I will break your *moorti* or idol.”

**Q: Gurudev said this? (laughs)**

**Gaggu ji:** I think after hearing this, my maternal grandfather had beaten Gurudev up saying, “You are wishing ill for this house (laughs).” But I don’t remember if my mother passed or failed.

I empathize with the great Ganpati. He must be wondering what kind of a man is this? Sometimes he worships me, sometimes he tries to offer me *ladoos*, sometimes he wants my help to make his sister fail, at other times he is threatening to break my statue if I don’t make him pass.

His alliance with Ganpati, which was initially connected to examomania, later became an alliance where the power of Ganpati vested in his palm and became his to use and share with many of his disciples.

Well, let’s go back to the sisters for some relief.

**Gurudev’s sisters:** See how Gurudev operated. There was a cupboard that was locked. There was something kept inside that he wanted but the cupboard was locked. However, the thing he wanted, would disappear from the locked cupboard. Like *pinnis* which are lying in the cupboard. Someone says that he wants to eat *pinnis*...

**Q: Have you witnessed this with your eyes?**

**Gurudev’s sisters:** Yes, many times. Yes, those things happened in front of us.

**Q: How old was he? In the 10th std?**

**Gurudev’s sisters:** Must be around the 10th. Yes. He would ask us to scratch his back and would promise to give us pinnis. We were not aware whether there were pinnis in the cupboard. Out of greed, we would agree to his terms and conditions. And without opening the lock of the cupboard, he would give us those *pinnis*.

**Q: Your mother never caught him?**

**Gurudev’s sisters:** How could anyone catch him? Where was the evidence? The cupboard was always locked, so whom could she accuse of the act. The key was with her.

For those who could not understand the conversation, the sisters are talking about how he would bribe them with *pinnis* or sweet meats to get them to scratch his back. Then he would remove those *pinnis* from a locked cupboard, the keys of which were always with his mother.

Though this incident may seem like a sibling prank, if you scratch beyond the surface, it wasn't. This was a demonstration of young Gurudev's ability to dematerialize and rematerialize things without being conscious of it.

Until now, he had not realised who he was or what he would become. Almost everyone saw him as just another kid down the block living a normal life... a life as any other kid. And so did he.

A significant incident that took place in his early life was one where he became a victim of black magic. It brings out several realisations:

1) he was vulnerable to black magic in spite of who he had been in his previous incarnations. It showed that the powers he was to claim, rested in the future. Currently all he had was latent and yet to manifest.

2) It also showed that the latent power helped him survive a lethal attack. He did go through a few years of suffering but his future had found a solution.

**Mataji narrates this incident:**

**Q. One more question I wanted to ask you --what did he want? Like what did he want to become spiritually? What were his spiritual ambitions? Why did he do all this?**

**Mataji:** He wanted to know what spiritualism was about? What *bhakti* or devotion meant? How it began? So far as I know, is that during his childhood, someone had fed him something. At that time, he was in the 5th or 6th standard. So, when someone fed him something, he fell very ill. I think the illness continued till he was in 8th or 9th—he was very sick. My father-in-law took him to many doctors. Traditional and western treatment—nothing was left behind, even at that time. But he didn't get better. Then my mother-in-law said she would take him to Baba Balaknath temple. My father-in-law said he wouldn't get cured there, and how would they take him there—he couldn't even walk, he was so unwell. My mother-in-law said, "Never mind, I will take him there." So, she took him there—I don't know the place—but someone saw him there, he didn't get better instantly but someone saw him and made him drink some *jal*, which made him vomit. There was a lot of undigested curd (*lassi*) in the vomit, and undigested (*kacche*) *masaan* (ashes from a graveyard).

**Q. *Masaan* meaning?**



**Mataji:** You know tantrics -- when someone dies, they know which bone to feed when. Also, *raakh* (ashes)...

**Q. A dead body's ashes...**

**Mataji:** Yes, ashes. They mix the ashes and feed it to people—that came out of his stomach. Only after that did he become better. He was surprised to see that, surprised at how could something could stay so long inside his stomach—to understand that he came into this *bhakti* line. That's how he started. **(Wow)** To understand how something could stay inside his body for so long.

**It is possible that this incident worked as a trigger to help him change paths.**

**Fate would make him obsessed with learning more about the spiritual arts. This thirst would lead him to his oasis. Both family and friends noticed these early indications but did not know what to make of them.**

**In the early stages, Gurudev's spiritual learnings had no specific direction. It was a little bit of this, and a little bit of that. Firm ground existed both in his past and in the future. However, at that time, the field of the present was being excavated for future sowings. Over to Gaggu.**

**Gaggu ji:** Since childhood, Guruji liked going to meet *sadhus*, give them food. He would run away from home to spend time with those *sadhus*. It's not like he would disappear for days and nights...like our grandmother would be looking all over the house for him by whichever name she called him. He liked serving spiritual men since childhood.

**Q: There used to be a temple?**

**Gaggu ji:** Yes, they would come to the temple but not to the home. No one entertained them in their homes.

**Q: Gurudev would visit that temple often?**

**Gaggu ji:** Yes, he used to visit that temple. *Sadhus* would come to that temple or to some other temple. He had this desire to ask them things...kind of intuition... He would go there to speak to them, ask them questions or even engage in debates. This used to enrage our grandmother.

Our village in Haryana in Punjab has 4-5 places of *pirs* around it. People believe in and worship there. Someone told him, "Son, do this on Thursday". So, he would light a *diya* at a *mazaare* every Thursday. He was so determined about this. Often there would be landslides in the area because of constant rains causing floods...even the parents would berate him over this. There was no availability of *diyās* etc. but he would still go there and

light any form of *diya* – could be one made of mud, of clay, or even a simple matchstick for that matter. There were no polythene bags at the time but he would tie all of it up and come what may, do it on that day.

There was also a lot of Islamic influence in his village before partition and many of his friends at that time were Muslims, who later migrated to Pakistan. This helped create in him the flexibility of beliefs. He visited the *Shivalay* and also lit a lamp at the *dargahs* in the vicinity.

On a future date, he would serve people from all religions, and his devotees would come from multiple backgrounds. He never tried to convert people from their religion to another.

He embraced all religions as his own, had alliances with many of their saints, and gave examples of the great learnings of each.

This tradition of embracement and inclusivity continues in all the sthans to this day. His example was a great learning for us. Here's hoping that in the time ahead, people can look at all religions as versions and not differentiations of each other.

Two people who influenced Gurudev's life and served as his initial mentors were Sitaram ji of Banaras and his disciple, Sitaram ji of Dasua. He would one day take a U-turn from this path and be led by Buddhe Baba to his final one.

What Sitaram ji of Dasua brought to the table was structure. He mentored Gurudev while the latter acquired many siddhis. These were meant to heal specific diseases, including curing snake bites, and help people with *barkat*, that is, reducing wasteful expenditure. Though these siddhis were not harmful to him or others, they were of a much lower level than what lay ahead.

The siddhis gave him practice in discipline and focus of the mind, and taught him persistence and fearlessness. The future would make him discard all these in favour of higher spiritual attainments.

His co-worker, R.C. Malhotra, became his disciple before his advent as a mahaguru. At that time, Malhotra ji was a spiritual associate who learnt a few special tricks from his friend and was excited to do so. Later the equation changed. One became a mahaguru, and the other, his prime disciple.

One of Malhotra ji's rare recordings follows:

**Q: This Sitaram ji is a person who used to stay in the *Sheetla Devi* temple?**

**Malhotra ji:** Yes, in Haryana.

**Q: And his Guru was Sitaram ji from Dasua?**

**Malhotra ji:** No...He was from Dasua but he would never stay there. He would come and stay here.

**Q: And where was his Guru from? Ponga? No?**

**Malhotra ji:** He was from Haridwar, Rishikesh. He spent 8 years going from one Mahatma to another and then came in this line.

**Q: And he went *seh sharir*?**

**Malhotra ji:** Yes, he went *seh sharir*.

Sitaram ji senior had passed on *seh sharir* or with his body, as was the case of Jesus, Kabir and many other accomplished saints. I am told that Sitaramji junior was trained to completion by the Sitaramji Senior after the latter's demise.

The reason why the Sitaram ji's mentored Gurudev was probably because they could see his future, his past attainments and also notice his nature in the present. *Seva* was his DNA. Besides they probably knew that they were a part of his journey and his pre-prep.

Due to his casualness towards studies and seriousness towards spirituality, Gurudev's parents were keen that he should focus on his career. And so made sure that he went to Delhi to stay with his uncle so that he could spend his time to further his education and find a job.

So, G for Gurudev moved to D for Delhi to pursue higher education.

It was a new phase, a different one, and lots of destiny ahead. For starters, he scraped the bottom of the barrel and did odd jobs to make ends meet. In order to be a lightweight guest at his uncle's home, he helped with household chores, often carrying sacks of wheat to the mill and back. He was always comfortable in the shoes of Mr Do Little!

Gaggu has some news about the man called uncle!

**Gaggu ji:** After passing the 10<sup>th</sup> standard, he must have done some course. He moved in with our uncle who promised to correct Gurudev's ways and help him find a job. My uncle was working with Eveready, the company that makes cells. Gurudev also sold pens to make a living. Think of it this way, one has to do all kinds of work.

**Q: When did he sell these pens?**

**Gaggu ji:** In Delhi

**Q: When he came to live here?**

**Gaggu ji:** Yes, when he came here...his paternal uncle lived in Delhi

**Q:** So, he passed his tenth and came here?

**Gaggu ji:** Yes, after passing his tenth he came here. Since there were one or two known people in Delhi, there was a support system. So, he came here and learned shorthand typing. While in Delhi, he first sold pens, He sold tickets. In around 1960 or 61, when he went to PUSA Institute while he was still living at Shahdara, Ramnagar.

**How did he get to the post at PUSA Institute which was a part of the agricultural ministry?**

Well, most people got seats in government programmes by exerting political influence but for Gurudev, a cow would do.

**Did I say cow?!**

Yes, a cow!

One morning, as he idly strolled in the neighbourhood, Gurudev saw an elderly woman trying unsuccessfully to milk her cow. He offered to help her. A few gentle taps from the mahaguru in the making and lo and behold the cow started giving milk. The same lady then casually inquired about Gurudev's life. On finding out that he was doing little of consequence, she asked him to speak to her husband for guidance.

The husband turned out to be the principal of PUSA Institute, and it was on his suggestion that Gurudev enrolled in a 2-year technical course at the Bharat Sevak Samaj, a development agency set up by the Government of India.

On completing the course, Gurudev joined the All India Soil and Land Use Survey, under the Ministry of Agriculture, as a soil surveyor, sometime in 1958. He was 20 years old when he received his first salary of 150 rupees.

It was around this time that Gurudev moved in with Dwarkanath ji, who was a friend of Nagpal ji.

Interestingly, Nagpal ji got a job in Gurudev's department on account of a spelling mistake. A politician had exerted influence to get his son also named KL Nagpal, the same job that Nagpal ji was vying for. As they both had the same initials, the ensuing confusion led to the job being offered to the wrong KL Nagpal. The wrong one turned out to be the right one for Gurudev.

**Nagpal ji was of great value not only to the great master but to us all. When we were at Gurudev's camp, he would volunteer to handle Gurudev's work so that he could spend time with us.**

**Over to Dwarkanath ji-landlord, friend and devotee.**

**Q: How and when did you meet Gurudev?**

**Dwarkanath ji:** Nagpalji was my childhood friend. We used to live in Agra where we studied together. After that we came to Delhi and we both got a job. It was a government job, and later, Gurudev also got a job there. One day, Nagpal ji told me that one of his friends from Haryana in Hoshiarpur, wanted to stay with us in the room we were staying in. So, when I first started talking to Gurudev, I was very impressed with his intelligence and level of understanding. He was also a good talker. So, I agreed, as we got along well. I agreed to this arrangement, and we started living together in the room in Paharganj. The room was on the first floor, it was 10x10, there were tin sheets above, and there was a veranda ahead. Every year, Gurudev used to be on official tours for six months while spending the remaining months with us. Since he used to stay with us in the room, he would get his foldable bed. He was a happy go lucky man, and his main trait was that he used to make people laugh. Whenever he spoke, he spoke in a way that had people rolling on the floor with laughter. So, a few of my friends who would come to my home on Sunday evening for a get together, used to get impressed by his personality, and ask me to invite them again so they could hear more stories from him. The stories and quotes he shared, were a source of great enjoyment. Gurudev used to love watching films. He was far more interested in watching movies than us. He used to go to Sheela cinema to watch the 9 pm show.

**I am thinking, while simultaneously justifying my weakness for films and TV shows - Could it be that Gurudev developed brilliance in role-play because he was a movie buff?**

**Well, there are 16 or more *kalas* or capabilities that people can be adept at or have been known to be. A mahaguru has to be adept at more. Krishna, the mature idol in history, was 16 *Kala sampooma* or accomplished. Ram was adept in 12 or 14 while Guru Nanak Dev in 10 or 12... I'm not so sure. One of these *kalas* is a sense of humour and Gurudev had no shortage of vitamin H.**

**Q: So, when you stayed together, how was the day like?**

**Dwarkanath ji:** On Sunday, when we got up in the morning, we used to eat breakfast. He loved going out. I have so many photos of Gurudev roaming around and going out. So, he used to be like, "Today, let's go to Qutub Minar. Let's go to the Red fort or some other

site.” As far as movies go, if he got to see one every day, he would. The moment we reached the cinema hall, he used to tell Naga to sit on the other end while he would sit on the other side. He made me sit in the middle. Gurudev used to tell Naga that if I slept during the film, I should be whacked and woken up. I used to feel sleepy as I was very lazy and not very interested in watching films. So, he forcefully took me to the movies.

**Q: What was his routine on a weekday?**

**Dwarkanath ji:** He used to love reading novels; he used to read a lot of novels. There was a library close to the office that he visited daily. He could get a couple of novels from there. Even Nagpal liked reading, but not me. When he used to sit down to read, I used to ask him why he read all the time? I preferred that he spent his time chatting with me. Whomsoever he met, would look forward to meeting him again because he made people laugh. My elder brother, who lived near Ajmeri gate, used to call me in the office enquiring about when he could visit and if Rajinder (Gurudev) would be there? When I would assure him that he would be around, he would say, “I will come and sleep over, so we can spend the night in chit chat”. Whoever came in touch with him, became his fan. That was his speciality.

**What he was not good at was vitamin M - money. The Guru Vishnu roop in him realised that he did not have to sweat it. He earned a little, out of which he gave away a lot, and yet somehow the two ends met.**

**A strange practice that he followed was that whenever he gave someone cash to make purchases, he would never take back the change. Trust me, this is tougher than you may think! I've been trying to practice this habit unsuccessfully for years.**

**Gurudev achieved an uncanny ability where he could in cases of emergency, put his hand into his pocket and take out a wad of notes. I don't think he liked doing that, but in a couple of situations he was known to.**

**Of course, he never did this for any personal gain but only for matters concerning seva. To the best of my knowledge, he acquired this ability in the latter part of his spiritual life. His attitude towards money was probably the reason behind it.**

**It is my personal experience on more than one occasion that money would appear almost out of nowhere when I had to travel to Gurgaon on Gurudev's instructions. He would insist that I come by air and those were pretty broke days. So, I guess he helped. I found money for the ticket...under my mattress, from behind my cupboard, inside a coat**

pocket...maybe I placed it there and forgot about it. But it was found only when I needed to fly to Gurgaon. I'm not sure it was legal tender. But the sentiment certainly was tender.

**On Gurudev's money management, or the lack of it, Dwarkanath ji explains.**

**Dwarkanath ji:** We enjoyed ourselves during the time Gurudev stayed with us. And secondly, talking about money, Gurudev was totally detached from money. We three had a mess fund, so thirty multiplied by three which is ninety rupees. Food, tea, entertainment and other expenses got covered from this fund and the cashier was Nagpal. I would hand over my share of thirty rupees and then ask Gurudev to give his share as well. But he would say he did not have money and would ask Nagpal, "Nage, you put my share. I will give it back to you later." Hearing this, I used to tell Nagpal that he should take Rs 30 from Gurudev on salary day itself. It was not possible to meet our monthly expenses without his contribution. So, Gurudev used to laugh and make us laugh as well by saying, "Yes Nage, he is right. You should take the money from me on salary day itself." He never kept money with him. Whenever he had money on him, he distributed it.

**I am not sure how much of the above discussion was about Gurudev, and how much about inflation.**

**Time to shift from the monetary policy to the angle of difficulty.**

**Destiny trained him in the art of confidentiality. He divulged only that which he needed to or wanted to. In times to come, he would have to hold lakhs of secrets of the multitudes who would come to him for help. Subtler was the fact that owing to his *divya drishti* or access to the third eye usage, he would even know the secrets that people never disclosed. The capacity to not divulge all that he knew was certainly not an easy one to practice.**

**In a decade or so that I spent with him, I never once saw him showing off his capabilities or trying to impress. Sometimes in the Guru *roop*, he would pass comments that were jaw-dropping for most of us. But to him, they were just statements of fact.**

**When someone at the Jwalaji temple asked him why he wasn't bowing to the female deity, his response was, "Who touches the feet of one's Shakti?"**

When he took me to Badrinath, one of the most powerful Vishnu temples, he stumped me with the words, “Go and hug your brother.”

He once told me that Mumbai was the dominion of Mahakali - the ultimate feminine deity - and that she was my grandmother.

Remarks like these were never easy to digest, and it was my implicit faith in him that made me believe that he is always right.

While he tried hard to keep his supernature under wraps, he would often get K.O.T – caught!

In the early years, his roommates would catch him practicing mantras under a blanket in the wee hours of the morning. Someone else would find him sitting inside a locked room that had not been opened. Once, he forgot his wallet while shopping for vegetables for bada guruvar, he simply slid his hand in his pocket and took out the money that was needed to be paid. And he could be at two places at the same time too!

I guess destiny wanted his story to be known and his life to be a beacon of light to others.

We return to Dwarkanath ji to listen to some more anecdotes of Gurudev’s early years!

**Q: When Gurudev used to stay with you did you ever see anything related to spirituality, did you see any of his practices?**

**Dwarkanath ji:** I started noticing these things later, when he came into his power. I used to feel that even though we lived together for such a long time, and yet, we were not aware of whom we were staying with. He used to perform little miracles when he lived with us, but we never gave it much mind. Sometimes, when we were asleep, Gurudev used to get up, open his small foldable cot, wrap a blanket around himself and sit in meditation. We did not realize what he was doing. When morning broke, we saw he was not around. Sometimes, when we got up, Nagpal used to ask him what was he doing. He would claim that he was not doing anything and ask us to go back to sleep. He used to say, “I am doing my *paath*.” We saw this. Similar incidents happened daily. Like if we did not have tickets for a movie show, then there would be a man waiting for us with exactly three tickets in hand. We witnessed many such incidents.

**Q: Please tell us more, how many more miracles have you seen which you think are miracles of Gurudev when you stayed with him?**



**Dwarkanath ji:** Early on, Nagpal ji and I used to live in Agra. So, we both planned that since we had two leaves, we should visit Agra. A night before departure, we told Gurudev that we would be leaving for Agra the next morning and he would be alone for two days. He replied that he would see how we managed to make the trip. So, I was like, “What?”

We had confirmed tickets and all we had to do was just sit in the train. He said, “Go then. Try and go. It is a challenge”. When we reached the station, the train was delayed by five hours. We started calculating that the journey was two and a half hours long and the train is five hours late. How would we manage to return in time to attend office? We decided to return the tickets. Gurudev started laughing when he saw us climbing the stairs on our return home. He always laughed a lot. He said, “How could you leave me alone and go to Agra? Try and go! I want to see if you succeed.”

**If I was the Railway Minister, I would have banned him from travelling by train for influencing, manipulating, and affecting my train timings and schedules.**

**Gurudev used sarcasm as an effective tool to create awe. I have seen him do this on numerous occasions. It would appear that he was being funny, but the underlying currents hit the shores they were meant to.**

**Dwarkanath ji continues a different line of thought.**

**Q: Every Tuesday when Gurudev used to go to temple with you, he always waited outside the temple and you used to go inside.**

**Dwarkanath ji:** Yes, Nagpal and I were Shiv devotees. So, every Monday, we visited a temple in Agra to light a *jyot* there, either in the morning or evening. When we came to Paharganj, there was a Shiv temple there as well. So, we used to ask Gurudev to come with us, saying, “Let’s go Rajinder. Come with us.” So, when we reached the temple, Nagpal ji and I would enter it. When we asked Gurudev to accompany us inside, he would tell us to carry on without him. We found this odd because Gurudev was also a devotee of Shiv. Also, the *paath* that he used to do was Shiv ji’s *paath*. But this was a miracle, a wonderful game destiny played in bringing three Shiv devotees together. And it was like we had found something valuable in life. That is how we felt.

**Gurudev hardly visited temples in the later years. On the rare occasion that he did, he chose to wait outside while the others entered the shrines to pay their respects. Yet, in the early years he would hop, skip and jump from temples to dargahs and back. These**

were the voyages of his unrealised self. Later, after the advent of the mahaguru, he would become an ally of many of the deities that he worshipped as a child.

Finally, he journeyed beyond and transformed from a disciple of Shiv to a manifestation of that very form like many other spiritual greats who came before him.

**Q: How did Gurudev turn from a friend to a Guru?**

**Dwarkanath ji:** After a very long time. In our younger days, we lived together, we used to exchange shoes, exchange our pants, we used to eat together, everything was done together. When we came to Gurgaon after he had become a guru, there was a conflict of how we could view a friend as a guru. It took a long time for me to realise...I have made so many mistakes...I am talking about myself here as Nagpal used to work with him. I realized that I had erred. So, one day, Gurudev and I met. Gurudev asked me to sit beside him. I refused. I told him, "No, I can't sit beside you. From now on, I will sit on the floor." Whenever I was in his company, my body used to shiver and I would feel goosebumps. It felt like I found something wonderful. And this was his main speciality -- if someone came to him in pain, or in anger, thinking that he would say this or say that to Gurudev, every negative emotion would be washed away just by being in his company.

From friend to foe is a common story. But from friend to follower and devotee is not. It was the greatness and humility of Dwarkanath ji that allowed him to accept his own roommate of over four years as his guru and eat humble pie in his presence.

Hats off!

For a man to be able to influence lakhs of people, the ability to communicate effectively was a great tool. Though he was born and brought up in very simple surroundings and had a job that most would not even envy, yet, destiny played interesting cards and prepared him for the future.

The ability to win over people with his personality and humour, with no show or sign of spiritual power was one such skill or kala that he had acquired. His fearlessness, acceptance of other religions as his own, his naughtiness and several such qualities became the infrastructure upon which one day would stand the Mahaguru.

Looking at the little Gurudev-to-be, a shayar would've probably said:

AUDIO BIO OF THE GURU OF GURUS

*Koshish bhi kar umeed bhi rakh raasta bhi chun  
Koshish bhi kar umeed bhi rakh raasta bhi chun  
Phir is ke baad thoda sa muqaddar talaash kar  
muqaddar talaash kar*