



Gurudev communicated without speaking. He heard the unspoken sound. He knew what we were and what we would be. He did not make the sculpture, just chiselled it. The science of teaching came to him in perfect flow. He was a mentor who could not be easily assessed. His role play, examples, demonstration were all beyond our comprehension. His empathy, a great motivator. Most believed he loved us all. I believe he accepted us all for what we were.

## *The Incomparable Mentor*

Gurudev fulfilled his obligations as a guru, dutifully and patiently. Success lay in the fact that he remoulded us from the spiritual illiterates we were in this life, to the spiritual saints that we did become. We may not stand as tall as the grand master but his adoptees are Lilliputians no longer.

Here are some views from Durgapur, views of Krishan Mohanji, Gurudev's disciple who has run a sthan there for decades.

**Krishan Mohan ji:** It takes a disciple thousands of years to become a guru. A lot of people are called Gurus. One of the greatest things about Gurudev was that he would turn people into gurus before they became disciples.

While other gurus created disciples, this guru created gurus and that is why he became the Mahaguru.

Mrs Jolly was an ardent devotee for several decades. She was a regular visitor to Gurgaon on all the important functions every year. She was also devoted to Malhotra ji, Gurudev's prime disciple.

**Her reflections.**

**Mrs. Jolly:** This was a place where there were no speeches, no *satsangs* or no devotional songs. If you go to any other saint, you will have speeches, prayer songs, or something or the other but here you will never find any speeches, prayer songs, *satsangs* or any such religious pronouncements.

As a guru, Gurudev was a complete non-conformist. His healing methods were more than casual. There was no theory to be pondered on, no scriptures to be read, no *shlokas* to be recited, and no profound *satsangs*. He just tightened his lungi, sat on his bed and gave a

lesson to those seated in his small 150 square feet bedroom, mostly through examples of his own experiences.

**Puran ji deserves a listen.**

**Puran ji:** I said, “Guruji can I read the *Shiv Purana*?” He said leave 100 pages and read the next page. He said leave half which pretty much means don’t read it. This is what he meant. *(laughs)*

**Q:** Leave 100 pages and read one page after. *(laughs)*

**Puran ji:** That is how he explained not to read.

If you tell someone to read one page and then leave a hundred and again read one page, there goes his reading habit.

Anyway, Bindu Lalwani shares a teenager’s exposure to the most profound man in the world.

**Bindu ji:** If you want to achieve something then the path is going to have some difficulties but Guruji made it very easy. It kind of just happened. It was like a river flowing - it took its own natural course. Go to Gurgaon, pay your respects, offer seva, listen to his talks and return home. I wouldn’t even understand much but still return with something or the other. You didn’t even know what you brought back with me. And then in twenty or thirty years. or whatever time, you applied or remembered that thing.

Though I was much older, I fell into the same space as Bindu. I loved to hear what he was saying but could not assimilate the meaning till much later. The tough part was that he would speak in short sentences, almost in MP3 formats. Those *Ek Vakyas* would come to life in the future. I’d go so far as to say that he was probably speaking to our future selves and not our present ones.

He’d say – *“Always walk with death by your side.”*

Oops! *Sar ke upar*. Over the cuckoo’s nest.

“If you want to conquer sorrow, first learn to conquer joy”.

Yikes! Another *Sar ke upar*.

Today, his philosophy of one-liners has come to life and we have learnt to reflect. As will you, if you follow the process.

The late Surrender ji did seva in Kanpur for a decade and a half. His humility was a distinctive feature of his personality. Hear it unfold.

**Surrender ji:** Guruji lived amidst us as God in human form. The things we didn’t know were explained by him in simple terms when he would instruct us on what to do. What

capabilities did we have that we could remove people's pains or do anything for anyone else? But the level to which Guruji helped us evolve, could only be achieved by a very evolved being. This is how I feel. Guruji asked any random person to start curing people's problems—how would that person know how to do it? Leave anyone else—how would I know how to relieve people's pains? But guruji told us to do it, and we did it by following his instructions, and saw that the person's pain vanished.

**What most of us were weak at was the self-evaluation programme. If the Mahaguru had decided to mentor us, we must be worth something, right? Either that, or Gurudev had a terrible HR strategy. It was the ignorance of our past and our future that handicapped us in terms of self-acceptance.**

**Surender ji lived a life of greatness and died a great saint, a stellar *sevadaar*. For Gurudev, Seva was a comprehensive way to practise spiritual growth, and that was the focal point that he led all his disciples towards. Often, he did not spend much time on lecturing them as in his book, seva was all.**

**Krishan Mohan ji shares his experiences of being mentored by the mahaguru.**

**Q: Krishan Mohan ji, Gurudev told you to heal your maternal uncle by placing your hand on his forehead. Did he tell you to just treat your uncle or to begin healing people?**

**Krishan Mohan ji:** When Gurudev instructed me, I treated my maternal uncle. He got better. I was confused about how the cure happened. When I went to Gurudev, he said, "Son, whoever you place your hand on, will feel better".

**Like most of us, Krishan Mohan ji did not know that he was a pre-cooked meal. All Gurudev needed to do was to push a few buttons to enliven his past life competencies.**

**That is why most of us found it so hard to believe how quickly he made us progress. He was very clearly connecting our past to our present. And then it was ready, steady, get, set, go.**

**Punchoo, Pradeep Sethi's wife, and daughter of a disciple, Rajpal ji, continues.**

**Punchoo ji:** I remember I got a call from him when I was in Bombay. He said "What are you doing?" I replied "Guruji, just sitting." He said, "Ok. Your grandmother-in-law keeps the keys of the locker with her under her pillow. Do one thing -get those keys at night and give it to me. Then I'll give you her jewellery from there and you can keep it back later." I said, "Guruji, you will give me her jewellery?" He asked "Why? What's wrong with it?" I replied "Guruji, you had told us that if you have to give me something, then you will give it yourself. Why would you take somebody else's things and give those to me?" He said "This is the best thing that you have said." I said, "Guruji, this is what you have taught us." He started laughing. In the meanwhile, I heard Mataji's voice. Then, later, I came to know that he had a new hands-free phone and other disciples were sitting with him and he made them listen to our conversation. This is his way of teaching others that "See,

this child is talking like this." And Mataji told me, "Punchoo, it was a hands-free phone, so he was making others listen in to your conversation." (*laughs*) I said ok.

**Santlal ji was a sharp student and a quick learner. No doubt he had a lot of baggage to clear due to his being an important man in the Government and all that, but Gurudev worked a lot on him. And what came through was a knight in shining armour.**

**Santlal ji:** He would say things in a light hearted manner. He would teach us. Teaching us means, he would say, "Son do this, do that." He would let us know whatever was not good for us.

**Gurudev often used humour as a teaching tool, both to inspire and reprimand. He wanted us to search for inner knowledge rather than become theoreticians. I was a theoretician when he took me under his wing. I was obsessed with reading books on plants, nature cure, ayurvedic remedies, etc. I found that when blessed, these herbs worked beyond expectation. Due to a weak memory, I sometimes prescribed the wrong cures, but they worked. Though understanding was at bay, bewilderment had its day.**

**One day, Gurudev called me to his room and let fly! He asked me to place my faith in myself rather than in herbs and plants. He said, "Tu Kaagaz bhi mathe pe laga ke usko de dega, toh woh theek ho jaayega."**

**15 words became the lesson of a lifetime.**

**I learnt from them and have taught it forward. The power of the human aura when directed by a focused mind, awards capabilities unfathomable.**

**Gurudev advocated the practice of mantra chanting, *nisvarth seva* and improvement of the *gunas* as a means to heighten intuition. Much of his training was imparted in the dream state.**

**With Pehelwan ji, Gurudev had to literally awaken his faith. Here is the case of someone who slept himself to spirituality.**

**Q. What comes out of this, is that you had a wish, a desire, but you thought that most of the people in this line were frauds, and you didn't want to fall into that trap. Have I assumed correctly?**

**Pehelwan ji:** Absolutely, correct. When I used to go to the farm, I used to tell people that even though I've put the *kada* on, I still don't believe in him. I will only believe when I witness his capabilities.

**Q. If you'd worn the *kada* and yet not believed in Guruji? How did it happen, and what did you see to make you believe?**

**Pehelwan ji:** I'd asked someone how people get cured with clove or cardamom. He replied that he did not know; Guruji did it himself and gave the spices himself. He said,

“He visits the homes of all the people he gives the sanctified spices to on *Bade Guruvar*, he visits all their houses.” I asked him what time he visited? He said, “Between 1 am and 3:15 in the morning. So, I used to sit up at night. The alarm used to go off at 12:45 a.m., and I used to wake up, wash my face and would light a *dhoop* and sit. Every day, I used to wake up in the morning and say, “Guruji didn’t come, he didn’t come.” When I used to feel sleepy or lazy, I used to keep a glass of water and splash it on my face when I got drowsy, so that he couldn’t say, “I’d come and you were sleeping.” (Laughter) This continued for many days.

**Q. Then?**

**Pehelwan ji:** Then after that, I used to sleep where I was sitting, on the ground itself. I used to keep watching...waiting....and I used to sleep there. Then one day after I’d gone off to sleep, Guruji came and said, “Son, don’t lie on the bare ground. Spread a cloth before lying down. Spread a cloth or mat under you.”

**Q. What do you mean by he came? Did he come in by the door using a duplicate key? How did he come?**

**Pehelwan ji:** He came in my dream and told me to not lie down on the bare ground. He said don’t sit or sleep on bare ground—spread a cloth or a mat.

**Q. Then what happened?**

**Pehelwan ji:** Then after that, it so happened that I would come to Gurgaon more often. I didn’t realize what I had come for or what I was doing. About my drinking, he told me to leave it, saying, ‘Son, you leave drinking alcohol. I will see the rest.’ I quit drinking after that. I used to drink a lot—in the mornings, I drank to get rid of my hangover. In the afternoons, I drank to get high—then after that it was his grace for who was I to quit, I quit it almost immediately because of him.

**The man who wrestled for passion now had to learn to grapple with concepts spiritual. His mentor transformed him into a karma warrior who devoted close to four decades to selfless service at Gurudev’s *Khandsa* farm as well as the sthan.**

**Kapill ji who runs a sthan in Lonavla, and also mentors several disciples in the making, shares an experience not heard of by people in the spiritual business. He spies on Gurudev in the dream state and catches him doing something unheard of. Sometimes these actions manifest but do not appear apparent. A new concept to hear and ponder.**

**Q: Is there any experiences about Gurudev that you would like to share with us?**

**Kapill ji:** I used to get a lot of dreams of doing seva at Gurgaon. Gurudev telling me to do seva and treating people, giving them *chittas* (sprinkling water sanctified with mantras) etc. A couple of times Guruji and Gurudev had taken me for a walk along with one of our Guru *bhai*. I saw Gurudev putting his right hand on my Guru bhai’s head and he didn’t

know about it, near the soft part of our head (*talv*). He did something. He saw me, his eyes caught me looking at him while he was doing this. He smiled and said, "I have opened your brother's 4th eye." So, this was an interesting experience, a dream and I told Guruji about it and he asked me to keep this secret with myself and not to tell that person about it. So, I never mentioned it to him till date.

**Q: So Kapill ji did you find that in this *sevadaar* whom Gurudev referred to in the dream that you had, did his powers increase? Did you find any change in him? Did you see anything in him which was different after this experience?**

**Kapill ji:** He was just the same as he was. He's always been very helpful and he has been serving people and he has always done his seva and in fact he has always been going out of his way. He is just the same and is yet doing the same things.

**The third eye is at the level of the forehead and the fourth eye is exactly opposite at the back of the head. When the fourth eye opens you feel like a thin tissue paper has torn and you can actually see from the back of the head.**

**Gurudev was always shutting down people's third eyes because he did not want them to get trapped in the enjoyment of seeing the past or the future. Today, I realise what a burden it would have been to read people's thoughts or know what is going to happen in our lives and that of others. Access to this kind of information could be dangerous for the mind.**

**Only an unbelievable mentor could shut this for his disciples as a means of protection and insurance against misuse.**

**Shifting gears...**

**Can the sea come caress a saint's slippers? Can a river put a saffron tilak on his feet? Can the elements sway to his tune? Was there truth in Moses parting the sea? Of Guru Nanak Dev staying underwater in the river for days? Of Kabir and Jesus and others dematerializing their bodies?**

**What can one think except that the truth is often stranger than fiction?**

**Santosh ji from Nadaun shares his experience. If it was hard for him to believe, wonder what it will be for you.**

**Santosh ji:** What happened was that Guruji used to take us to Haridwar. When we were in Haridwar, Guruji took us for a bath early in the morning. What happened was, there is a triangle created at the confluence. Guruji went and stood in the water. What Guruji told us was, "Son take a dip in the water. You have to drink the *charan jal* and do your Mahagayatri Mantra and then come out of the water". So, everyone started doing this, one by one. The water was cold and it was cold weather. It was difficult to even take one dip in the cold water but with Guruji's blessings I could take a few dips. We had to take

dips by reciting the names of each of our family members. I had to take 7 to 8 dips and was shivering because of the cold water. I came out and started wearing my clothes. Even Guruji came out of the water. He would bathe wearing his vest. It is the duty of a disciple that when a Guru appears, he should not see his face but focus only on his feet. When I saw his feet, I was surprised. I saw that both his toe nails were coloured in concentrated *kesar* (saffron) like we apply during *Guru Puja*. It was the same. Now what happened was, Guruji being Guruji told me, “What are you looking at?” When I was wearing my clothes, I kept on thinking about what I just saw.

We returned to Guruji’s house at Gurgaon at night. We were sitting along with Guruji and I was about to ask that question to him. But Guruji already knew what I was going to ask him. He instantly said, “I don’t know what you keep thinking about. Go and sleep”. But I was still very curious to understand what I had seen.

I loved listening to the cassettes of ‘*Guruwaniya*’. The second day, in the morning, after having a bath, I put a cassette in the player and started doing my *paath*. While listening to those cassettes, I heard, “*Tirth, Nadiyo ka Jal, Tirth sthano ka jal, apne maalik se ardaas karte hai ke duniya bhar k paapo ko dhote maila hogaya hai, aisi koi mahaan hasti bhejiye jisse ye jal nirmal ho jaaye*” (The sites of pilgrimage, the water of rivers, the water in places worshiped by people of the world has become filthy by absorbing all the negativity. So please send a holy person to us so that this water can become pure). When I heard this, I got very excited and happy and I kept on thinking about the Haridwar incident. Intuitively, I kept thinking that my Guruji is *Shiv roop*, I have no doubt about it. But Ganga has worshipped him and applied a *Kesar tilak* on his toes.

**Indian philosophy talks about the unstruck sound. Pradeep Sethi talks about the unasked question which has an answer. With Gurudev, it was common place.**

**Q. In your experiences with him—what were the things he would talk to you about?**

**Pradeep ji:** Most of the things we got from him were spiritual. Most of the times, whenever we had a question in mind and we used to sit before him, he used to answer these questions without our asking them. Many times, it happened with me—almost many, many times. There are a lot of questions, a lot of answers, which may not be right for one person, and may be not right for the other person. That’s why we never had discourses on any specific issues. The simple path that he gave us, that every human being is a part of the super supreme *aatma*, and by giving them comfort, we get comfort in return. Mantras were also given to us because that was also a medium for self-realization, but he always made it known that *seva* is much beyond mantras. But mantras did play a very important part in our association with him.

**The mantras we were given were *siddh mantras*. These were different from the mantras found in the scriptures or on websites. What we were not aware of was the fact that we were possibly mahir or accomplished in these in previous births.**

**But he knew.**

**He made us *siddh* in these mantras in very short periods of time and taught us how to use them for healing and helping.**

**Sometimes other powers gave us mantras in our dream state. But we stuck to the 5 or 6 that he had made us practice.**

**Gurudev would frequently give people mantras by offering them water he had sipped and say, "I have given you 10,000 counts of this mantra". That is, he would contribute from his own mantra data bank and offer it to some of his disciples in order to speed up their progress.**

**Santlal ji would like to add.**

**Santlal ji:** Firstly, he would give us mantras and instructions, but I'm unaware of the things he would do beyond that. Other than that, he used to give *jaap* and on he would judge our progress by his own parameters. I was with him for 5 years. Whenever, the public would leave around 12 am or 12:30 at night, he would call me and talk to me. If we didn't understand his teachings, then it's our mistake. He would always try to teach us how to evolve.

**Q: What was his vision for his disciples? What did he want?**

**Santlal ji:** He wanted us to become something. He would say if you become greater than me then I am a success.

**If Santlal ji had been a *shaayar*, he would have said this in the words of Ashok Sahil.**

*Teri rehmaton mein kami nahi*

*Teri rehmaton mein kami nahi*

*Mere etihaad mein dheel hai*

*Na saboot hai, na daleel hai*

*Mere saath rab-e jaleel hai*

**I asked Mataji what she picked up with her ears to the ground, especially about his opinion of his disciples.**

**Q. What did he expect from his *shishyas*? Was there anything in particular?**

**Mataji:** He expected them to do as much seva as possible. He wanted to take them forward and educate them as much as possible. He had a lot of expectations, but he didn't talk about it much.

**Giri Lalwani ji overwrites the same page.**



**Giri ji:** He told me, “I want my children to be far more powerful than me. Which father or guru would not want his disciples to surpass him?” That was the best thing which you know I can say about him.

**I asked Puran ji a quick-fire question. His answer was to the point.**

**Q:** As you have been one of his disciples and you have been very close to all of us my question to you would be, in your assessment what was his expectation from those whom he mentored?

**Puranji:** Total surrender

**Total Surrender’ are just two words but have a book of meanings. Rajpal ji summarises rather well.**

**Rajpal ji:** There is a word that is called faith. With the aid of this faith, your spiritual journey will commence. If you have faith, you will be able to surrender to your guru. And if you are able to surrender to your guru, he will free you of this karmic cycle. He will adopt you because of this faith; he will make you richer with his wealth; he will give you spiritual amenities and spiritual powers, and teach you how to use those powers—the methods and the discipline required to use them.

**Ha! Maybe even for Gurudev this was an over ambitious thought. He possibly had not heard Ghalib’s couplet.**

*Humko maalum hai Jannat ki hakikat lekin  
Humko maalum hai Jannat ki hakikat lekin  
Dil ke khush rakhne ko ghalib ye khayal acha hai*

**Surrender. This nine-letter word was nine hundred times tougher than we ever imagined. Gurudev’s humility and simplicity made it difficult for most to fathom his supernature. He was the emperor of underplay. It was only on that rare occasion when he let down his guard that we got glimpses of his spiritual eminence.**

**When I asked him about a photograph of a Devi that hung in his living room, he just sniggered and said, ‘Oye, main aes tarah sau banaiyan. I have created 100 such!’**

**I assure you that when a human becomes the manifestation of the power of Shiv, he is far harder to comprehend than any tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, or saint.**

**The words that follow are of the late Santlal ji from Sonipat.**

**Santlal ji:** All I can say is that, perhaps, there’s probably no one like him this world. This is what I can say. Large hearted with a helpful attitude. Every guru probably has these qualities, but I can testify that I never saw anyone preach and practice this as much as he did. The truth is that there are no words to express this and I can testify that I learned to

truly live life only after meeting him...how to live life. He always strove to rid people of their troubles, lessen them, no matter what it took. That is a big thing.

**Q: Yes, it's a big thing**

It was Gurudev's greatness and unique style of mentorship that allowed us to fall off the bike several times, and to climb back on it again, until we further stumbled.

And finally, till we stumbled very little!

One day, I hope we will stumble no more.

As a coach in the game of spiritual cricket, Gurudev allowed us to get clean bowled but kept motivating us to practice at the nets. As he was all knowing, he knew the roadmaps of our journeys before they even began.

Gurudev's daughter, Renu, quotes her father sharing things normally unheard of. Most people aspire for significance. Here was a man who batted it away.

**Renu ji:** He said, "Don't get caught up in this, and when you reach higher levels of evolution, don't get caught up in me either."

This was nothing short of historic! Not wanting to be significant in the lives of others was an unheard-of sentiment of a chosen few. After all, a man who identifies with the divine doesn't need attention.

For a Goliath like him wanting his Lilliputians to go beyond him or attain more than he had was an ambitious sentiment. He was technically correct in his assumption that all men are equal but then some are more equal than the others. This was a cliché he did not take into account.

We did not have a similar background, nor the same level of grit and determination.

We were not capable of congruence and sacrifice or investment of time.

After leaving his body, he continues to motivate and inspire. And though we may not have complete faith in our own commitments, we do in his.

And therein lies our success.

To add an ode to the mentor, I quote in Urdu.

*Labh kya bataein kitni azeem uski zaat hai*

*Saagar ko sipiyon se uljhaane ki baat hai*

*Suraj ka, chand ka, toh hai to guzar nahin wahan*

*woh hai jahaan, wahan pe na din hai, na raat hai*

*Labh kya bataein kitni azeem uski zaat hai*

*Words are not enough to define his exaltation*

*It's like trying to intertwine the ocean with its shells*

*The sun and moon have no significance there.*

*Where he has reached, there be no night, there be no day,*

*Only his care.*