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Inspired by Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb

ARJUN MALI



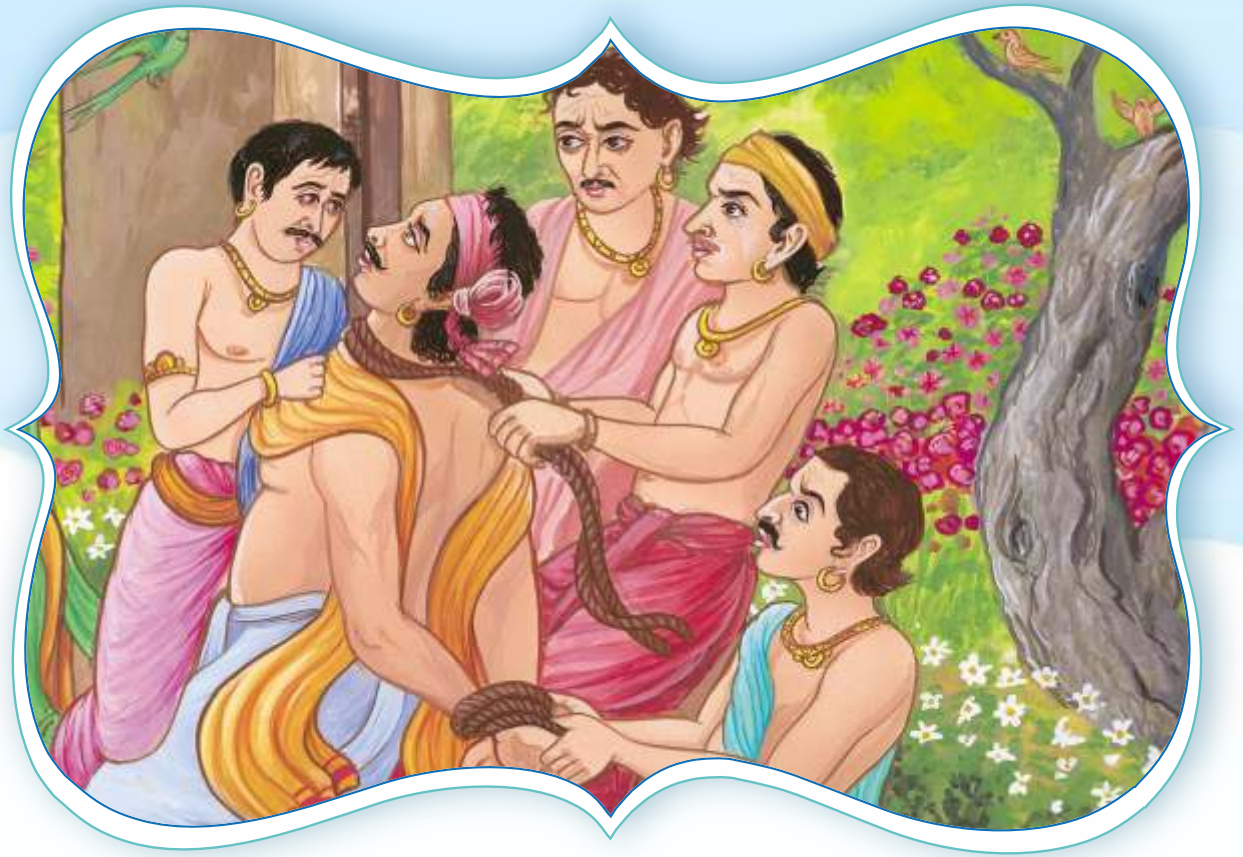
This story belongs to Shree Antgad Sootra (Aagam)

ARJUN MALI



There lived a gardener named Arjun Mali in Rajgruhi Nagari. Skandashri was his wife. Arjun Mali always used to worship Yaksha by offering him flowers.

One day while Skandashri was on her way to worship Yaksha, she was teased by 6 men. Meanwhile, Arjun Mali came to the temple. They immediately caught Arjun Mali, tied him up before the Yaksha himself.



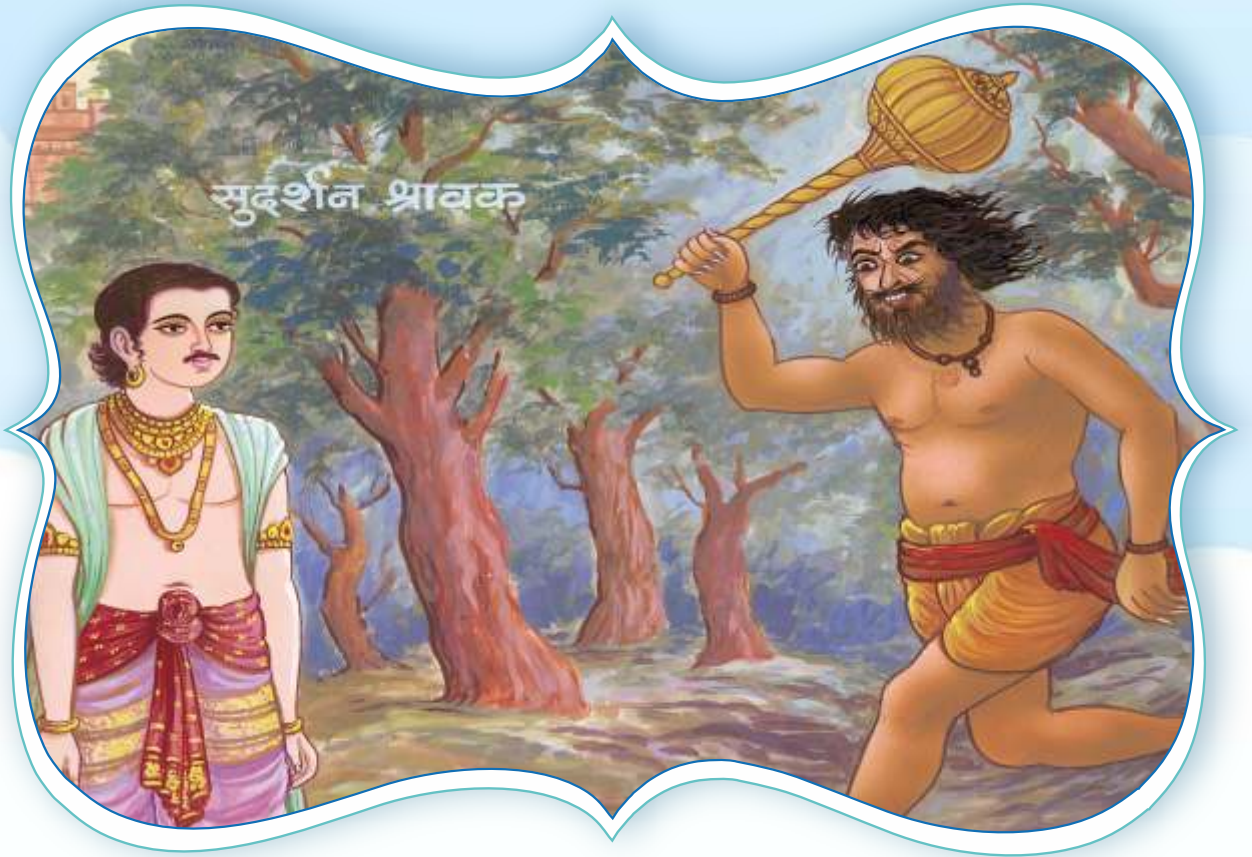
Arjun was very angry with all this! However, Yaksha witnessed the whole situation. He read Arjun Mali's mind. He then entered Arjun Mali's body and gave him strength to save his wife. He kill all the men.

But, this did not satisfy his anger. He continued doing the same. Daily, he used to kill one woman and six men.



Once, Lord Mahavir passed through this city but out of Arjun Mali's fear, nobody came out for darshan of Parmatma!

However, on hearing about the advent of Lord Mahavir, Sheth Sudarshan the chief of this city was extremely pleased but shocked! He thought to himself, **“It is indeed very astonishing that out of fear people of this city nagari did not go for darshan of Parmatma Mahavir”!**



Nevertheless, Sheth Sudarshan decided to go and greet Parmatma Mahavir, immaterial of the consequences. On his way, Sheth Sudarshan met Arjun Mali. Sheth Sudarshan stood quietly.

He surrendered himself to Parmatma Mahavir and said, "I surrender myself and seek refuge of Parmatma Mahavir (the Lord of the three worlds), the Arihantas, Siddhas and all Sadhu-Sadhvis".



Saying thus, he took the vow of fasting and started chanting the Namotthunam Mantra. **sitting in the corrct mudra. Fasting and chanting gave him great strength.** He was enveloped with a divine power and positive aura. Arjun Mali could do him no harm.

Such was the power of Namotthunam Sootra that the Yaksha immediately left Arjun Mali's body. Arjun Mali fell down and within no moment he rose twisting his limbs, as if he had just awakened from a deep sleep.

Arjun Mali did not remember anything. He exclaimed with wonder **“Where am I? What am I doing?”**



His eyes fell on Sudarshan Sheth who was standing like a statue. On asking, Sudarshan Sheth told Arjun Mali the whole story. On hearing the whole incident he repented a lot and began to think...

“Oh! What did I do? Out of ignorance, I have committed such bad deeds which will lead me to nowhere but hell!”



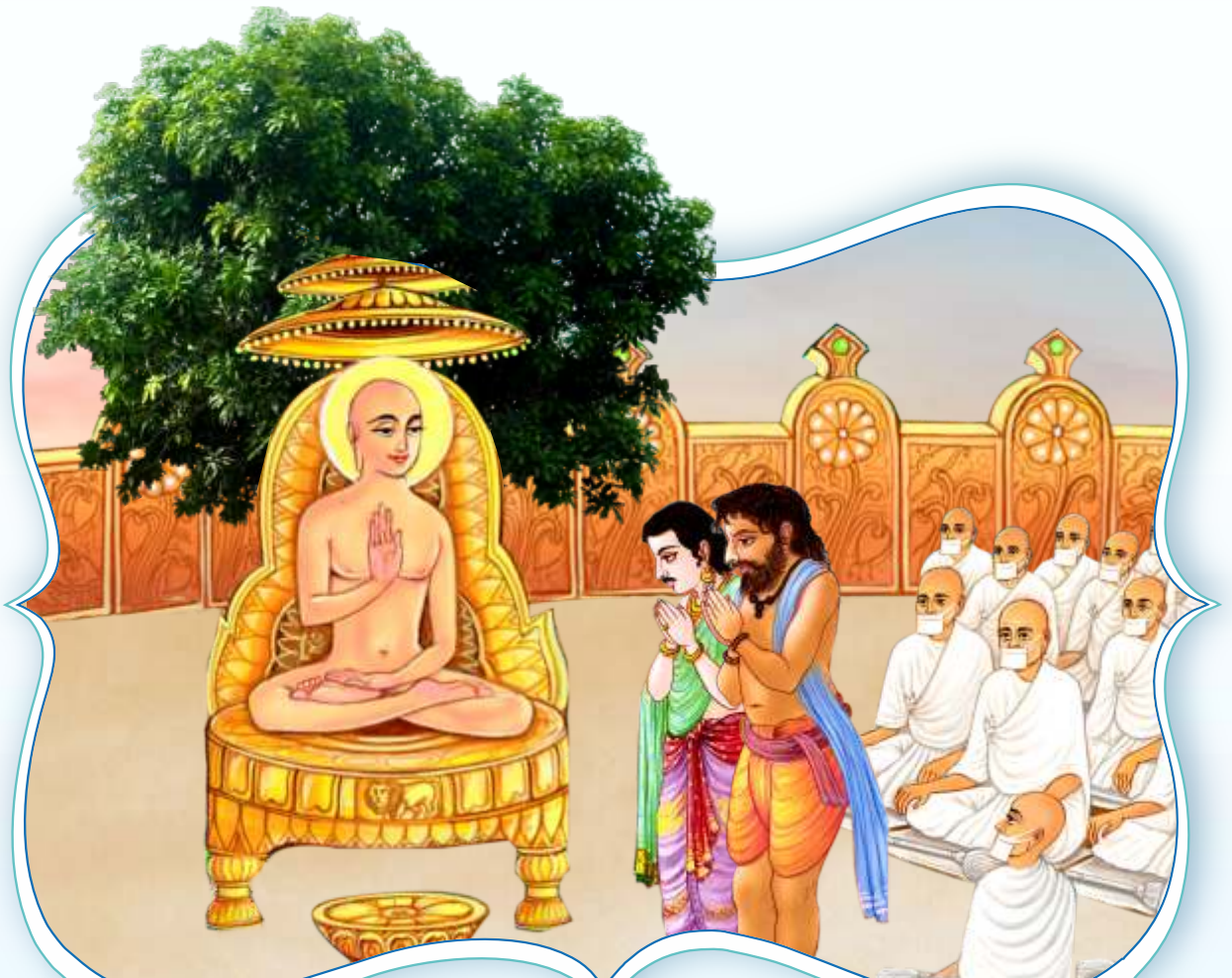
Thinking thus, he asked. **“Oh dear Sheth! What are you doing here?”**. The Sheth replied, **“I have come here to bow down to Parmatma Mahavir”**.

Arjun Mali said, **“I will also come with you to meet and greet Parmatma Mahavir”**.

Both went and bowed down at the Lotus feet of Parmatma Mahavir. Arjun Mali started weeping, **“Oh Parmatma! I am a sinner! How can I purify my self?”** The Parmatma lovingly told Arjun Mali, **“To destroy your karmas observe tough penance through Saiyam Vrat”**.

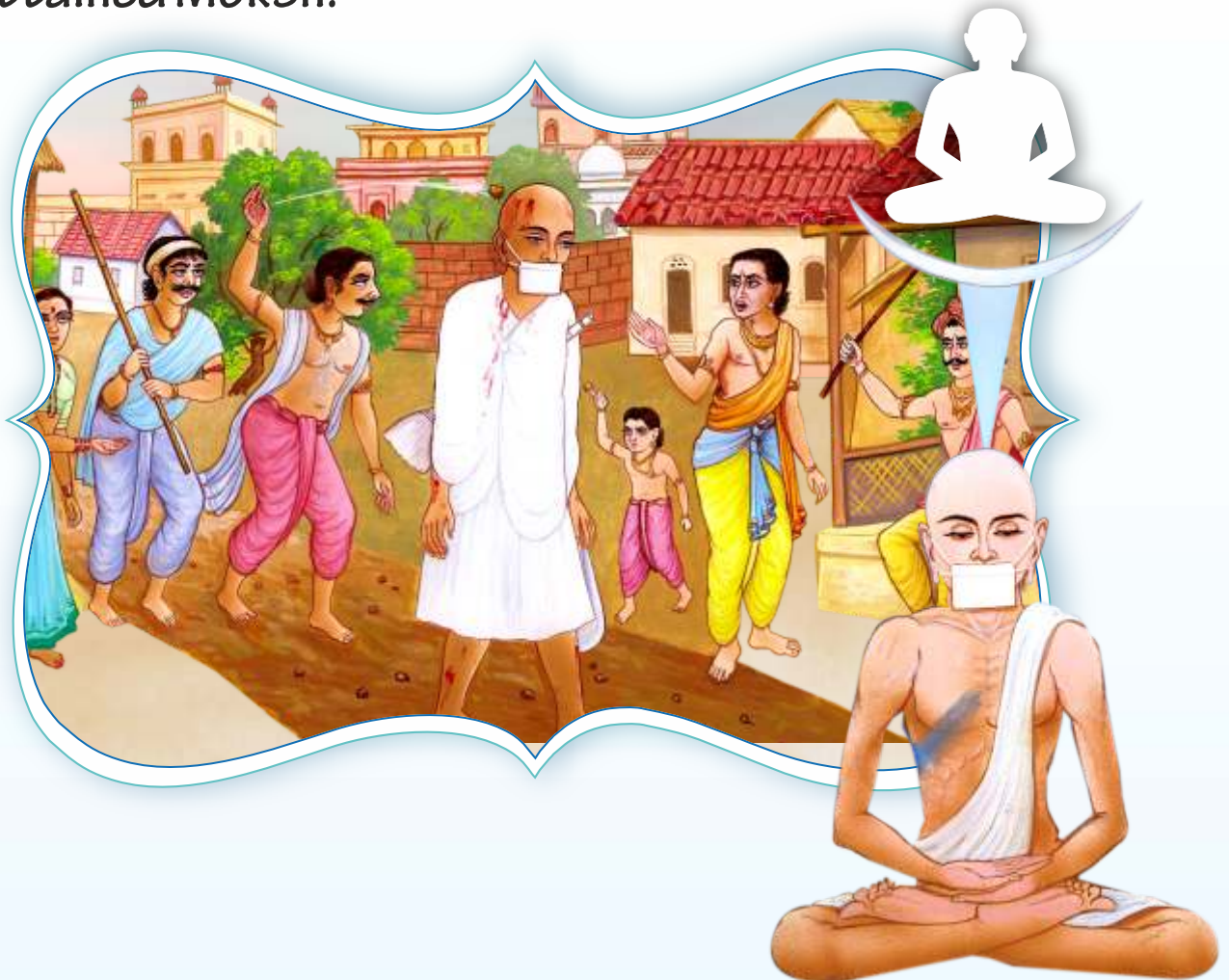


Arjun Mali took Diksha from Lord Mahavir. Travelling on his spiritual path he came to Rajgruhi. **He repented for all that he had done in trance.** However, the people of the town wouldn't forgive him so easily. "He is the same person who killed our relatives! He is wicked and a cheat". They started throwing stones at him. People couldn't believe that Arjun Mali had actually changed. **He faced all forms of humiliation, yet did not feel dejected.**



On the contrary, he began to think... *“If doing so gives them satisfaction, I will consider this as their grace upon me”*.

Arjun Mali thus endured such harsh criticism for six months with patience, not once forgetting his Saiyam Vrat. He thus destroyed all his karmas and attained the eternal knowledge and truth and attained Moksh.



Once you surrender yourself to Parmatma or Guru, you do not loose anything except for your frustration, anger, ego, sufferings and similar bad deeds. You become pure like gold.

Just as fire removes dust from gold, similarly, penance removes dust of all the bad deeds attached to our soul.

