

WHILE READING
' SHRI GURUCHARITRA '
MY INNER FEELINGS : -

DT. 20/Aug/2013

'O SHRI GURUDEO DATTA '

I seek nothing else but Your blessings for successful fulfillment of my endeavour.

I very respectfully bow to the saviour of devotees , the ocean of grace and who possesses all the knowledge of Vedas, the TRIMURTI SHRI GURU and take liberty of expressing my inner feelings.

I am neither an ardent devotee nor an atheist . In any temple before the image of GOD my hands get automatically folded and head bowed in obeisance (to pay my respect). I feel that there must be some hidden power to manage the affairs of this universe .

I strongly believe that the same hidden power has energized me to carry out the work of translating ‘ Shri Gurucharitra ‘ in Marathi as it is used to-day.

Two years back { January 2011 } I had been to Lavasa, Mahabaleshwar, Pachagani , Gondavale for change of weather and environment as a measure of recoupment of my health after having suffered from Herpes and Jaundice. I fully enjoyed the scenic beauty and peaceful atmosphere which resulted into making me fit in both body and mind . In the Gondavale Ashram in their book shop , I came across a volume (book) titled “ Shri Guru Charitra”. In my childhood at Buldhana , my mother Late Gaurbai karmarkar used to gather women in the neighbourhood and arrange group reading of some good books . At that time I was given to understand that women are prohibited from reading “ Shri Guru Charitra “.

When I came across the book Shri GuruCharitra the word **WHY** raised its head in my mind . My mind centralized around a question “WHY”. And why is it so ?

‘ **WHY** ’ ? = **W**ho **H**arasses **Y**ou ?

Is there really a prohibitory injunction in “Shri Guru Charitra “ that women should not read it. Why? And to find out the answer to this Why. I purchased that book and started reading it.

“ Shri Guru Charitra “ was composed by Shri Saraswati Gangadhar Sakhare in the 16Th century in Marathi in the poetic form known as Owi (ओवी). While reading I felt that Shri GuruCharitra was a huge treasure trove in the form of large number of new words , Education of the society through references of social life and various anecdotes ‘Historical references , musical instruments and era of Ravan (रावण) . Information about Vedas ,

the concept of God , the rituals the processes and the rules regarding ways of worshiping and so on . In all has writings and expressions .

The author has not entangled the readers by mundane daily routine and rituals (कर्मकांड).

I was astounded by the poetic excellence of Shri Sarswati Gangadhar . The author 's mother tongue is Kannada. However this great author learnt Marathi and composed in Owi (ओवी) form in an intelligent and disciplined way “ Shri Guru Charitra “ divided into 52 chapters and running into 7491 verses . As advocated in the book the rendering is both sweet nourishing as the nectar.

In the book nowhere there is any prohibition for the women to read it . I got the answer to my question ' Why ' . However I felt that the rendering in Owi (ओवी) verses in old style Marathi may make it difficult to easily

follow, understand and appreciate the meanings and purpose. And to solve this predicament I undertook to translate the book in prose form in the present day used Marathi.

It was a tuff and herculean task to render the sense and substance of the book in the prose form. I had not read the book previously. It was the blessings of the Almighty and the destiny that got it done from me. I earnestly feel that all the devotees should be able to derive almost benefit of this book in the prose form and that the future generation of devotees should get the same benefit with the help of Modern information technology. I am putting this book on Website www.shrigurucharitra.com titled shrigurucharitra ashaya nidhi . It is my firm belief that

‘READERS RESPONSE AMOUNTS TO BLESSINGS
OF SHRI GURU’

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॥ Shri Gurudeo Datta ॥