

# VAJRAKUMAR



In the city of Tumbivan, there lived a rich Brahmin called Dhangiri. He had a beautiful wife named Sunanda. Their life was full of joy. After a while, when Sunanda was pregnant she saw a beautiful dream one night. She told this to her husband who was also a scholar. He told his wife that she would give birth to a bright and beautiful child. She felt very happy and the time was slipping just fine.

One day, a Jain Acharya Sinhgiri came to the city. Both, Dhangiri and Sunanda, went regularly to listen to his sermons. Dhangiri's soul was awakened by these sermons, and he lost interest in his wealth, family, and worldly affairs. He decided to give up his worldly life.

He told about his decision to his wife. She was shocked. She tried to convince him to stay and enjoy their life. She also said that since they were going to have a child it would be better to stay together. But Dhangiri did not change his mind. Sunanda was the daughter of a religious merchant Dhanpal and she had the religious understanding. Therefore, she gave him the permission to go ahead. She was consoled that, at least, she was the wife of a virtuous man.

As the time went by, Sunanda gave birth to a very handsome boy. He was lovable because he had smile on his face all the time. Everybody who saw him liked him at the very first glance. Sunanda celebrated his first birthday. She felt better that at least she had some company but this happiness did not last too long. One day, some ladies from the neighborhood were visiting her, and started talking about her husband. One of them said, "If Dhangiri would not have taken diksha (process to be a monk) then he would have celebrated the birthday with more extravaganza than her." The child, although a baby, heard the word "Diksha" and started thinking. He felt as if he had heard the word diksha before. While thinking about it, he suddenly remembered his past life. He realized that he was on a right spiritual path. He decided that he should take advantage of being born as a human and should utilize this life to uplift his soul further. He should become a monk like his dad. He also realized that his mother would not let him go, because he was the only hope and joy for her. So he started thinking about what should be done to get her permission.

At last, he came to a decision that since his mother would not let him go willingly, he should create a situation whereby she might get tired of him and give him up. He was still a little boy in the crib when he thought, "If I keep crying all the time then she would get tired of me, and maybe she will try to get rid of me." He put his thought to work right away. He started crying. His mother came running to comfort him but he just kept crying. She tried everything but nothing helped to quiet him down. She took him to the doctors and took advice from others but nothing worked. The child's trick worked. Even their neighbors who liked this child so much also got tired of him. Finally, his mother was so much fed up with him that she started thinking about how to get rid of him.

The child was now six months old, when Dhangiri muni (child's father) and Acharya Sinhgiri visited this city again. Sunanda came to know about this and thought of giving away this child to his father.

At the usual time for alms (going to collect the food), Dhangiri muni asked the permission of acharya to go for alms. Acharya Sinhgiri told him, "Dhangiriji, today you may accept even a live thing, if it is offered". Acharya was very knowledgeable and he knew what alms muni Dhangiri was going to get. So he gave his permission ahead of time. Although muni Dhangiri did not understand what his teacher meant, he left to go for alms. On the route different

houses, he arrived at Sunanda's house. He said, "Dharma Labh" (You may attain religion). Sunanda recognized this voice. She welcomed muni Dhangiri and expressed happiness to see him again. She invited him to enter the house for food.

Meanwhile, the young boy also heard muni Dhangiri's words Dharma Labh. So he thought that this was the best opportunity for his trick. So he started crying. This irritated his mother and she told the monk, "You are lucky to be able to uplift your soul, but I am tired with the burden of your child. He does nothing but to cry. He does not even let me rest and I am very unhappy. Please, accept him so there will be a peace in the house." The child heard these words and he was very happy in his mind. He hoped that muni would accept her proposal. Muni Dhangiri remembered the words of his teacher spoken right before he left for the alms. Now he understood what his teacher meant. He told, "Sunanda, if you really want to give this child away then I will accept him but think twice. Once you give him away you would not be able to get him back. You will have no right on this child after that." On hearing this, the child started crying even louder. She said, "I do not want to hear this crying anymore. I am so sick and tired of him that I do not want him around at all. I wish I would not see him even in my future life. You can take him forever."

She picked up the child and put him in muni's pot holder bag. As soon as the boy was given to muni, he stopped crying and started smiling. Sunanda was surprised by this and kept looking at the boy. But she was determined to give him away. Muni left with the child to go to the upashraya (place where monks stay for a short time). Acharya Sinhgiri saw that muni Dhangiri was carrying something heavy. So he asked him, "what is so heavy in your beg?", as if he did not know what was going on. When the muni opened his beg, his teacher saw the handsome smiling boy. Since he was so heavy, Acharya named him "Vajrakumar".

To be continued...