

SHREE

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SWAMINARAYAN

January - 2010

*Dhanur Maas Dhoon Mahotsav in
Shree Swaminarayan temple in the pious presence of
H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.*

Publisher Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad-380001.



1-2 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing invocation *aarti* of the idol images in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jamiyatpura and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granting blessings. 3. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj releasing the books on the occasion of *Trishatabdi Mahotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-23). 4. The hosts performing *aarti* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in village Motera and Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji narrating *Kathamrit*. 5. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessing the *Sabha* in Aantroli temple. 6. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing invocation of the idol images in Aantroli temple. 7. Haribhaktas performing *aarti* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the occasion of *Parayan* of Shri N.D. Chaudhary in village Ishwarpura (Badpura).



Founded By H.H. Acharya
Maharaj 1008 Shri
Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri,
Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

Shri Swaminarayan Museum
Narayanpura, Ahmedabad-13.
Phone : 27499597 - 9825309597
Fax : 27419597
www.swaminarayanmuseum.com

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SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE

Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.
Phone : 22132170, 22136818
Karbhari office : 22121515.
Fax : 22176992.

www.swaminarayan.info

Editorial & Subscription Address

Shri Swaminarayan

Shri Swaminarayan Temple
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EDITORIAL

January is the first month of the English calendar year. It is the first month of the New Year. Simultaneously, the day of 14th January is the Day of *Makarsankranti*- the Day of *Uttarayan*. It is the day of performing noble deeds of giving alms to the poor and the needy.

From the point of view of Astronomy, the Sun enters *Makar Rashi*- that means, the Sun moves away from the Southern Hemisphere towards the Northern Hemisphere of the Earth. It is the opinion of the scriptures, saints and our sages that the noble deeds performed on this day, earn fruits thousands times of the action. So let us obtain pleasure of the Lord Shree Hari by offering alms and performing special *Bhajan-Bhakti*. Coincidentally, *Makar-Sankranti* is immediately followed by *Vasant Rutu* (the Spring Season); and Vasant Rutu is the King of all the seasons. Even the Lord Krishna has stated in '*Bhagwat Gita*' that, "*I am Vasant in all the Rutus.*" During this season, the plants get new tender lush green leaves on their branches. *Vasant Panchmi* is an *Utsav* of double pleasure for all of us. As per the tradition established by the Lord Shree Hari, it is the day of *Rangotsav*. It is also the day of '*Shiksha Patri Jayanti*' granted to us by the Lord Shree Hari. '*Shiksha-Patri*' is the unique scripture of its kind written by the Lord himself. So this is an occasion of *Triveni-Sangam* of *Uttarayan*, *Vasant Panchmi* and *Shiksha-Patri* for us. So let us direct our life from the *South of Maya* towards the *North of Bhakti* of the Almighty Lord. Let us shake off the dry leaves of our rigid beliefs and superstitions and colour ourselves with the colours of *Kesuda* saturated with *Bhakti-Vairagya* and *Samarpan* offered towards the Almighty Lord. Let us recall the keys of happiness on the pious occasion of *Shiksha-Patri Jayanti*. When Maharaj is so much worried about our happiness then let us scrupulously follow all the directions and instructions given by the Lord in the great scripture '*Shiksha-Patri*' then only there would be real *Rutu of Vasant* in our life otherwise there is always *Rutu of Pankhar*.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri (December-2009)



3. Graced Shri Swaminarayan temple, Meghji-Muvada on the occasion of *Dasabdi Patotsav*.
4. Graced the house of the devotee Shri N.D.Chaudhary, Ishwarpura (Badpura) on the occasion of Katha.
5. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Patel Mohanbhai Amichandbhai and Patel Jethabhai Amichandbhai, Laloda (tal. Idar).
6. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Lunawada, on the occasion of invocation of the idol images.
7. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Dasbhai Patel, Savaliya Laljibhai Naranbhai and Hasmukhbhai Samatra, Bapunagar.
8. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies) Narichana (Muli Desh) on the occasion of invocation of the idol images.
Graced the hosue of the devotee Shri Harendra Dave, Satellite.
9. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Akhiyana (Muli Desh) on the occasion of Patotsav.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Pethapur, on the occasion of Parayan.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Rampara (Muli Desh), on the occasion of Patotsav-Parayan.
- 12-13 Graced Shree Swaminarayan Vishranti Bhuvan, Mumbai.
14. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Vallabhbhai Parshottamdas Babariya, Shilaj road, Thaltej.
15. Graced the inauguration function of the Picture Exhibition of the devotee Shri Surendrabhai C.Patel (Vishalawala), opp. Gujarat University, Navrangpura.
Graced the hosue of the devotee Shri Babubhai Shambhubhai Patel, Hirawadi.
16. Graced Dhanur Maas Dhoon after performing Mangala Aarti of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.
17. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mahadevnagar on the occasion of *Dhoon* and granting *Guru Mantra* to the new devotees.
18. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Zundal on the occasion of Parayan and 225th Birth Centenary of Sadguru Mahanubhavanand Swami.
Graced the village Detroj on the occasion of Parayan.
- 26-27 Graced Mumbai-Thana on the occasion of Katha.
28. Graced the village Motera on the occasion of Bhajan-Sandhya.
30. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Motap on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
27. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-23).

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri
Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 32

One shall never excrete, urinate or spit in places which have been prohibited by religious scriptures and society (dilapidated temples, banks of rivers or ponds, main roads, fields sown with seeds, shades of trees, orchards, gardens).

Staneshu Lokashastrabhyam

Nishidveshu Kadachana |

Malamutrotsarjanam Cha Na Karyam

Stivanam Tatha ||

Those places (*Sthaneshu*) forbidden (*Nishidveshu*) by society (*Loka*) and scriptures (*Shastras*) should never (*Kadachana*) be excreted (*Mal*), urinated (*Mutram*) in nor spitted (*Stivanam*) upon.

Shatanand forbids the pass of nose mucus in such places as well. He further adds to the list of places which should not be violated in this way; firstly the places prohibited by society are as follows – near somebody else's house, in a king's place of residence and near the place of an armed warrior. Secondly the places prohibited by *Shastras* are: where cows are kept, near a burrow, in water (pond etc.), in a pile of ashes, an estuary where animals live, standing in a path, in front of or in close proximity of either a cow, Brahmin, sun, moon, fire, Guru, women and God, a ploughed field, banks of a river, in sand, an old ruin, in a temple of God, in a road, a cleansed area and without covering your

head.

Thus these places as ordained by **Skanda Purana** and so shall never be excreted or urinated in. hence all places other than those mentioned may be used for excretion purposes. The twelve forms of excretion (*Mal*) are given in **Sharirik Samgraha**: (i) tallow (ii) semen (iii) blood (iv) the marrow of a bone (v) urine (vi) excrement (dung) (vii) ear and skin dirt (wax) (viii) nails (ix) nose mucus (x) tears (xi) eye mucus and (xii) perspiration. The Lord has mentioned only two forms of excretion (*Mal*) in the original text but all such forms of *Mal* should not be passed in such places.

This Shloka seems blatantly obvious but it had to be included in the *Shikshapatri* as often we may pass such excretion without thought. In essences we really should perform calls of nature in one's home – bathroom/ toilet as such places is designated for such action. Never should we perform such act outside in the open air.

Lord Swaminarayan calls for hygiene and social decorum here. Passing bodily filth in various places mentioned is uncivilized, impure and an insult. Purity and cleanliness are human directives. Nature and the world around us are to be kept pure and clean and never to be made filthy by passing of bodily waste. Nature is home to many creatures and so we should respect it by keeping it clean just as we keep our own homes clean. We have absolutely no right to pass filth in such places. One must always, even in times of desperation, be civilized and never violate the world around us.

Many diseases are caused by such dirt being exposes to the land and air. An improper sewage system causes great illness to those in close proximity and therefore it is vital that we have respect for nature and the world we live in.

Alms

- Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdasji Guru
Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat)

All of us have heard much about alms and even in the scriptures importance of alms is described much. Alms is considered to be an ornament of Dharma (religion). Just as human body is cleansed through bath and human mind is purified through worship of the Lord Shree Hari, similarly the wealth and money earned are sanctified and purified through alms. And therefore only we offer 1/10 or 1/20 part of our earnings to the Almighty God.

Even the Lord Shree Swaminarayan has given us directions in Shloka-147 of 'Shiksha Patri' as under:

"They shall donate one tenth of their earnings, money or food grains, to Lord Shree Krishna. Those with insufficient income shall offer one twentieth."

In 'Shrimad Satsangi Jeevan', Satanand Swami has narrated the rituals to be performed for such alms. For example there is much importance of giving alms on the days like Kartik Sud-9, Maha Sud-7, Vaisakh Sud-2, on one's own birthday, on the festive days of *Annakut* etc. and on the pious days of '*Makar Sankranti*' and also on the days of solar and lunar eclipse.

In '*Niti-Shatak*' three movements of money are described. One is towards Alms, the other is Consumption and the third is Destruction. A person earns noble fruits by giving alms of his earnings, by consuming the earnings one assures subsistence and nourishment and without these two, the money or wealth gets destroyed. There is a very popular saying in our culture: **"One earns fruits as per his deeds."** Those persons who use their money for the noble purpose, get happiness and peace in life and those who do not use their money for the noble purpose, get miseries and unhappiness in life. We get our money from our bank account, if we have deposited it earlier; similarly we would earn the fruits of our deeds performed in this life.

There are two types of alms. One type is in which we earn and enjoy the fruits of giving alms. And the second type is the one in which we perform the noble act of giving alms as per the directions of the Almighty Lord. If the alms are given keeping in

the mind that, the acts are being performed as per the directions of the Lord then it is considered a kind of worship and one earns the pleasure of the Almighty Lord and at last a place in Paramdham. Therefore Nishkulanand Swami states:

“જાવું છે, રે જાવું છે, રે આપો જમણે હાથ રે,
આવે સાથે રે, જીવ જાવું છે.
જાવું છે રે જાવું છે, રે માલ ધન મેલી,
ઠાવું ઠેલી રે. જીવ જાવું છે.”

The scriptures state that, a man does not take anything with himself after his death nor he takes birth taking anything with himself. What he takes and carries with him is the fruits of his noble actions and deeds. There is one interesting story.

There were two rich brothers. One of them was a noble and ardently devout person. He used to perform noble deeds; whereas the other was superstitious and greedy by nature. Therefore he did not perform any noble deeds.

Once the elder brother fell sick; the younger brother came to see him. He brought the money which he had borrowed from his elder brother. At that time, the elder brother told him that since now he was not going to live in this world anymore, he may bring the borrowed money to the other world. The younger brother told him that, no one can bring anything to other world after this life; immediately the elder brother told him that, he (the younger brother) was simply accumulating wealth and was not performing noble deeds like giving alms as if everything was to come with him after his death. The younger brother understood the message; he begged pardon of his elder brother and from that day onwards he started using his wealth in the noble deeds of giving alms like his brother.

Whatever is there in this world is of the Almighty Lord and the Lord has granted all these things to us. And we have to give from such received things only.

A generous person was offering alms while keeping his head down; a saint asked the reason for the same. The person answered the saint as under:

“દેન હાર કોઈ ઔર હે, દેત રહત દિન રેન
લોક ભરમહમપર ઘરે, તાતે નીચે નેન.”

Oh saint: The Almighty Lord has given me the money, I am only a medium and I keep on giving alms. But the people praise me which is a matter of shame for me and therefore I offer alms with my head down.

તન પવિત્ર સેવા કિયે, ધન પવિત્ર દીયે દાન,
મન પવિત્ર હરિ ભજન સે, ઈસ બિધ હો કલ્યાણ.

Tulsidasji was a great poet, saint and also a great devotee. He had surrendered his life to the Almighty Lord. He was so much devoted to the Lord that everything else appeared to him like poison. Among one of his many couplets, he has sung as under:

“જાકે પ્રિય ન રામ બૈદેહી, સો છાડીએ,
કોટી ભૈરી રામ, જદય થી પરમ સ્નેહી.”

“A person who does not cherish devotion and Bhakti towards Lord Rama and his great Bhakta, such a person should be left permanently even if he is our relative.”

Perhaps such a person may be very popular enjoying high status and importance in the society, he may be very rich and wealthy, he may be very learned and he may be a man of character; even then if he does not cherish faith and devotion towards the Almighty Lord, then he is Blind and Lame Person. And those who cherish company of such a person who is very rigid in his attitude towards the Lord, would lose their own worth.

As a result of the noble deeds of thousands of years, there happens rare Union with great saint or devotee. Therefore, one should see to it that, one does not waste his valuable time behind his family and other social preferences and preoccupations. Here the great devotee and poet- Tulsidasji- warns the devotees against such situations. A devotee should be very cautious and careful. Love and devotion towards the Almighty Lord is really worth and true treasure of life and all else is worthless.

“તજો પિતા પ્રહલાદ, વિભીષણ બંધુ, ભરત મહ તારી,
બલી ગુરુ ત્યજો કેત વ્રજ બની તની, ભયે મૃદ મંગલકારી.”

Understanding of the devotees is reliant upon *Niyam, Nishchay* and *Paksha*. And this firm faith of a devotee which is like a mountain cannot be shaken by anybody. Moreover, very existence of the devotee on this earth is meant for his Lord only and he has to sacrifice this life also, as and when required by such situation. Many great devotees of our great past have set examples of ardent devotion to the Almighty Lord. The great Bhakta Prahlad did not get frightened from his demonic father. He accepted all types of physical as well as mental tortures, but he did not surrender his faith and was not ready to leave his devotion even for the sake of his life. Similarly, when the great king and demon Ravan kidnapped Sitamata and brought her in Lanka, his younger brother Vibhisan left his brother and sought the shelter at the feet of the Lord Rama. When mother Kaikeyi created

જાકે પ્રિય ન રામ બૈદેહી

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas (Jamiyapura, Mahant Swami)

havoc in the life of the Royal *Raghuvansha*, the great prince Bharat left his mother and preserved the shelter of *Dharma*.

Similarly the great king Bali left his Guru Sukracharya (Guru of the demons) and preferred to stay in *Patal* just for the words of his promise to the Almighty Lord. Many Gopis of Vraja left their husbands and ran towards Lord Krishna and sought peace and shelter in divine devotion of the Lord and as a result thereof, they got place in *Ruchas* (Vedic Shloka) of *Vedas*.

Therefore those devotees who have obtained Almighty Lord in this life and upon whom the mercy and blessings of Almighty Lord are always there, they are very lucky and they need not perform any *Vrata-Tapa-Japa-Tirth* or *Daan* in their life. Though such devotees live in this mortal world, yet they enjoy the divine pleasure of the company of the Almighty Lord in *Paramdham*. But for that one needs to have eyes to look around. An owl does not need the sunlight because it is always found sleeping during the daytime. Even the great Kavi Narsinh Mehta has sung: “હેત વિના હુંકારો નો દેવો જેનું હરખે શું હેનું ન દિશે રે” While responding to the depth of the knowledge of Uddhavji, Gopis used to tell that, even if a wind would pass through the bones of our burnt bodies, then it would play and emit the sound, “He Krishna, He Krishna” because every iota of our body is saturated with devotion towards Lord Krishna and the word ‘Krishna’ and very flesh and bones of our body have got a new life granted by the Lord Krishna.

“તુલસી સો સખ ભાતી પરમહિત, પૂજ્ય પ્રાન તે પ્યારો,

જા સો હોય સ્નેહ રામપદ, યે તો મતો હમારો.”

While summarizing the essence of this human life, the intelligent poet Tulsidasji says that, the Lord is dearer to him even than his life and he has been cherishing ardent faith and devotion towards the Almighty Lord. Similarly, those Paramhamsas, who melted their lives in the worship of the Lord, their life is assessed through Lord Shree Hari. These great saints have performed so ardent devotion and Bhakti of the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan that, they have sung their devotion in thousands of Padas and couplets.

SAHJANAND SWAMI GRACED AHMEDABAD

- Chetan Bhagat (Guru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji)

During the times around 1818 A.D. Vitthalrai Babaji was Hakem of Ahmedabad. He was always found surrounded by the persons of false praise. In 1816 A.D. Lord Shree Sahjanand Swami graced Ahmedabad city along with the saints, Parshads and armed Kathi Haribhaktas. Someone misguided Vitthalrai Babaji that, Sahjanand Swami and his saints are not real saints and they may create danger against his rule. Being misguided, Vitthalrai conspired to kill Sahjanand Swami and his saints and devotees; accordingly, he invited Sahjanand Swami to his castle, insisted to take a seat on the high pedestal but Sahjanand Swami refused and stated that, he cannot sit on the seat higher than the seat of a king. While leaving the castle, Sahjanand Swami pressed the seat meant for him with a stick and found that under the seat was a huge bowl of boiled oil; this revealed the conspiracy of the king and he got irritated and ordered Sahjanand Swami to get out of the territory of his kingdom; Sahjanand Swami smiled and asked when he should return back. The angry king replied that, Swami may not return to Ahmedabad until there was his rule.

Thereafter it so happened that the Britishers took disadvantage of a scuffle of Vitthalrai with Gaiekwar State of Vadodara and in a very short period the kingdom was

snatched away from Vitthalrai and the British Officer Andrew Dunlop, the Collector of Kheda district took charge of the city of Ahmedabad.

On establishment of the British Company Rule in Ahmedabad city, Sahjanand Swami again graced Ahmedabad and the British Government warmly welcomed him and also granted a huge piece of land for construction of the temple of Sampradaya and registered the said land in the name of Sampradaya. Thereafter as per the directions of Shree Sahjanand Swami, Sadguru Anandanand Swami got constructed a beautiful temple with three domes. And on the pious day of Falgun Sud-3 Samvat 1878, Sunday 28-02-1822, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan installed the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in Pathakwadi area in Kalupur of Ahmedabad. This temple enjoys the pride of being the first ever temple of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. The time of the British Rule and the first temple of Shree Swaminarayan temple is almost contemporary and simultaneous and therefore a slogan became popular among the people that *Chandlo* and hat came together. However, later on the hat of the British Raj had to go away and *Chandlo* of *Sampradaya* remained as a shelter of the thousands of people and devotees of Sampradaya in the country as well as all over the world.

***Thaal* of Thor to the Lord Shree Narnarayandev**

It may be informed with joy and pleasure to the whole Satsang that, since long Seva and Pooja to Thakorji Shree Vitthalnathji of Vaishnav Sampradaya is being performed in our Sampradaya. It was the ardent desire of many devotees that *Thaal* of *Thor* may be offered to Thakorji. When ardently requested to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in this regard, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has joyously granted permission. So henceforth *Thaal* of *Thor* would be offered to Thakorji in *Rajbhog*. This *Thaal* of *Thor* would be booked one day in advance for rendering services of Rs.1500/-.

Shree Hari tied with Love

- Prof. Mahadev Dhoriyani (Rajkot)

Any Satsangi would not be unaware about the name of the devotee Parvatbhai of Agatrai. Name of Parvatbhai comes in first row of the devotees of the Sampradaya like the king Janak and Atmanivedi Ambarish. Once Shree Hari graced the village Agatrai of Parvatbhai suddenly and informed him, "We want to get sick whether you say yes or no."

The devotee Parvatbhai bowed down to Shree Hari and requested him not to get sick and to allow them to avail the benefit of rendering services. Accepting the ardent request of the devotee Parvatbhai, Shreeji Maharaj stayed for just two days; but the devotee Parvatbhai observed a kind of mental disturbance in Shree Hari.

From there Maharaj graced the Darbar of Zinabhai of Panchala. Maharaj told him, "We want to get sick." The devotee was shocked to hear this. How can a shady tree think about uprooting itself? But while preparing the bed for Maharaj the devotee Zinabhai thought that *Leela* of Maharaj is unique. Maharaj observed the perturbed face of the devotee; therefore Maharaj did not tell anything, just stayed for a night and went away in the morning. "Really! Death and the guest do not wait for anybody." These words of Maharaj more perturbed the devotee Zinabhai. He thought, "I have never denied anything to Maharaj. Then how can Maharaj prefer to get sick in Panchala?"

From there Maharaj graced the village Piplana and there also expressed his desire of getting sick before the devotees of the village but did not get proper response from any of the devotees of the village. From there, Maharaj graced the house of the devotee Kesarba in the village Varjang Jaliya. There was no limit of the pleasure of the devotees Hirabhai and Kesarbai.

Maharaj told them, "We want to get sick." Innocent Kesarba told, "Maharaj! You may do as per your wish!" Then Maharaj actually got sick in the village Varjang Jaliya. Kesarbai and her husband Hirabhai rendered the services to Maharaj like anything. Maharaj himself took the precautionary measures and started fasting.

When Kesarba asked Maharaj what he

wanted in the meals. Maharaj used to play joke by asking such things which would not be available in the village. When the devotees could not bring the demanded item, Maharaj would tell them why he was being asked to stay when they were not able to offer what was demanded from them.

Once Maharaj demanded hot & fresh *Jalebi* in the midnight. Kesarba woke up Hirabhai; both of them went to Bhayavadar, ordered the sweet to one person, got *Jalebi* prepared, and offered the demanded remuneration to the cook. Both Kesarba and Hirabhai brought the sweet home and offered it in front of Maharaj with utmost devotion!!!

The next day in the morning Maharaj asked the host devotees to bring five pots of water of the river Venu which was flowing near the village Jaliya; Maharaj expressed his desire of taking bath with this water. The water was brought and Maharaj took bath with the water. The sickness of Maharaj evaporated miraculously.

Thereafter the devotee Kesarba offered all types of meals and sweets to Maharaj and Maharaj would accept it joyously. While offering the meals to Maharaj, Kesarba thought if they had a son like this, they would have been able to offer him meals everyday. The omniscient Maharaj smiled at the devotee, stayed at the house of the devotee for 45 days and availed to the devotees the benefit of offering all kinds of meals. In this way **Shree Hari was tied with Love!!!**

NEW PUBLICATIONS

1. *Shree Hari Vicharan Leela*
2. *Astang Yog Darshan* (from Satsangijivan)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, these new two books are published. These two books which are edited by Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji would prove to be very useful to all our devotees. These two books were released by our H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj on the occasion of *Trishabdi Mahotsav* of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-23). Both these books would be available in our religious literature counter of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad and Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sector-23, Gandhinagar.

ROKADIYA HANUMANJI - JIRAGADH

- Patel Shambhubhai Hirjibhai (Nava Vadaj)

Shreeji Maharaj liked Mulidham very much. In Jiragadh (Halar) of Mulidesh there is one Hari Mandir under Muli Shree Radhakrishnadev. Every year, during the Patotsav of the temple, a beautiful *Parayan* is organized with one learned saint of our Sampradaya as spokesperson of *Parayan*.

Pata Idol images of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj, Shree Narnarayandev, Dharm-Bhaktimata, Manki horse etc. are there in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jiragadh.

Here there is also one idol image of Shree Rokadiya Hanumanji. Shri Nirdoshanand Swami had performed the invocation of the idol image of Rokadiya Hanumanji. Due to some reason, finger of the right leg of the image broke and therefore Shri Nirdoshanand Swami said that there cannot be poojan of this idol image and a new idol image should replace this image and directed to offer the broken idol image in the water of the ocean. But devotees of the temple thought to bury the idol image under the sand of the seashore. While they were carrying the idol image in a bullock cart, one wheel of the cart broke; therefore the devotees made the arrangements for another cart and started carrying the image towards the ocean. On the way the axel of the cart broke. Therefore, the devotees requested the driver of one truck to help them to carry the idol image upto the ocean. They also told him to pay the rent for his vehicle. The driver got ready. But the moment the image was placed in the vehicle, the truck did not start and once started it could not be driven ahead; however, it could run in reverse direction. When the driver checked the engine and all other vital machines of the vehicle, they were found in order and functioning properly. When the truck was again started, it went only in reverse direction. The devotees sitting in side the truck started

talking among themselves. Earlier the wheel of the bullock cart, thereafter the axel of the cart and now the truck; nothing helps us in going ahead. The driver overheard their talk. Immediately he asked the devotees to bring down the idol image as he did not want the idol image to be carried upto the seashore; he neither wanted any rent.

The young devotees and other Haribhaktas thought that, in the morning they would carry the idol image upto seashore and there they would bury the idol image under the sand. So they took the image upto seashore at night and started digging a big deep ditch. But within no time, heavy storm started. The sand and the stones carried by the storm struck on the face of the devotees. All the devotees got frightened and ran away and returned to Hari Mandir in Jiragadh. In one of the devotees, Rokadiya Hanumanji came and asked the devotees in the divine speech to install the same broken idol image in the temple. Listening to the divine speech, the devotees brought the same broken idol image of Rokadiya Hanumanji and Shri Nana Nand Swami performed the invocation of the idol images in the temple..

Thus, there is divine power in the idol image of Rokadiya Hanumanji of Jiragadh. Even today, many people perform some Badha-Aakhdi when they get their desired work done. Every year, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graces Patotsav of Shree Rokadiya Hanumanji of Jiragadh.

SPECIAL NOTE:

All the devotees and Haribhaktas residing and settled in abroad may please take note that, cheques to be issued towards Daan, Bhet, Dharmada and renovation of temple may be drawn on '**Shree Narnarayan Mandir Trust**'.

YOU ARE MINE! ISN'T IT?

Today little Bala village is decorated like a bride. Today Shree Sahjanandji Maharaj- the Sun is gracing and shining this little village of Saurashtra. There is no bound to the pleasure of Haribhaktas of the village. The whole village is decorated with colourful flags and every house of the village is cleansed with water and clay eagerly waiting to welcome Shree Hari.

At nine o'clock in the morning, Shreeji Maharaj graced the village. The whole village had already reached carrying various musical instruments at the outskirts of the village to perform a grand Samaiyu of Maharaj. And a grand Shobhayatra started and every villager was dancing with joy and pleasure.

Along with saints Shreeji Maharaj graces the house of one Bhaktraj. In the verandah of the village, the sitting arrangements for all were made. When Shreeji Maharaj took his seat, all the villagers performed poojan-archan of Maharaj. Among them there was an old woman. Her eyes settled on the face of Maharaj and then she started staring at Maharaj. Maharaj smiled and asked her, "Mother, what are you thinking?" The old woman said, "I wish to give you something but I am thinking what should I give to you? Maharaj, please tell me, what should I offer to you?" In this way, the old woman left the choice upon Maharaj. She thought if Maharaj would be happy everyone in the region would be happy.

Other devotees sitting beside Maharaj started thinking what was the old lady telling. What can she give or offer to this Lord of the Universe? And how can Maharaj demand anything from anyone? But the old woman insisted Maharaj to demand something from her. Maharaj smiled and told her, "When these saints are pleased they offer whatever is the dearest to them. So you can also give me whatever is the dearest to you." The old woman nodded affirmatively.

The old woman immediately rushed to her home. She had one very beautiful cow named 'Kapila'. The cow was very dear to her. She decided to offer the cow to Maharaj. While going

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- Atul Bhanuprasad Pothiwala (Ahmedabad)

to Maharaj, she got reminded of the treasure of money she has preserved during the whole of her life. She thought for a while and found that treasurer was dearer to her than the cow. So she collected the whole treasure to take it to Maharaj. While she was coming out of her home, her two sons came across. They asked her where she was going. The old woman immediately took both the children in her lap. She thought for a while and found that, her two children were dearer to her than the treasure. So she decided to offer her two children to Maharaj. When the children asked their mother, what she was thinking; she told them everything. The two children got ready. They told that they would be happy to render the services to Maharaj. Listening to this, there were tears of joy in the eyes of the old woman.

Immediately, the old woman came to Maharaj carrying her two children. She asked Maharaj to accept her two sons who were dearest to her. The whole Sabha was stunned to listen to the words of the old woman. The people considered her mad; they thought what would remain with the old woman if she would give away her only two sons. Maharaj told the old woman that who would be with her when she is giving away her both the children. Immediately the old woman replied, "**You are mine! Isn't it?**"

Maharaj smiled and said that she was telling the truth. The faith and reliance of the devotees upon the Almighty Lord is always proved true. Maharaj accepted both the children of the old woman; they became Sadhu and rendered services to Maharaj and Sampradaya. Thus, our Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya has shined out due to sacrifice and ardent devotion of the devotees like such Haribhaktas!!!

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- Compiler 'Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

How to become Sahjanandi Lion?

-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

Friends! We are Satsangi. We are the devotees of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and we should be proud of being so. One man of North Gujarat became a Minister in the Government. From the very second day, he stopped visiting the temple. His family was regular in performing Darshan in temple. From the second day, the whole family stopped visiting the temple. When one Sadhu of the temple asked for the reason, the family members replied that now they felt shame to come on scooter being the family members of a minister. They also said that, they would come to the village when the government would allot a car with red light to the Minister.

When family members of a person, who has become a minister, can feel so proud; why can't we cherish such pride when we have attached ourselves with the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Why don't feel such a current in ourselves! In Satsang one should not have these Three Attitudes and all the devotees are warned to be alert against these attitudes. These three attitudes are of a Snake, Monkey and a Goat. Our saints give many examples.

Once a snake-charmer was passing by a village, he had three animals. One was snake, another was a monkey and the third one was a goat. During his journey he came across a river. He desired to cross the river carrying all the three animals. So he put the snake in a bamboo basket, placed the monkey upon his shoulder and held the goat under his arm. The snake-charmer knew swimming. But a monkey cannot miss showing his temperament. When it started raining, the monkey took the bamboo basket upon his head; but the snake could not tolerate further heavy rain and it slipped out of the basket into the river. Immediately the monkey jumped into the water to catch the rain. Observing this, the snake-charmer tried to hold the monkey and the goat slipped out of his arm and got drowned

in the river. The snake-charmer wanted to save all the three animals; but he lost all of them. This little story is symbolic- snake, monkey and goat are three human attitudes.

i) The hissing angry attitude of a man is an attitude of a snake.

ii) Instable mental attitude of a man is an attitude of a monkey.

iii) Cowardly attitude of a man is an attitude of a goat.

The hissing attitude of getting angry time and again is not good for a man. Lord Shree Swaminarayan states, "All saints and satsangis are our relatives. All of us have stayed together. And we shall remain united. We cannot be separated even if we wish so. We have always to stay together in this world as well as in *Paramdham* i.e. *Akshardham*. Our saints say that hissing attitude of a snake is pride. Such a temperament is not good for a satsangi. A real satsangi becomes happy when he observes others performing worship and Bhakti of the Lord. Satsangis should be tolerant. If they are reprimanded or rebuked by others, they should think that only near and dear ones do so because they love us. Any layman or any stranger would not do so because he is not concerned with what we do or think. A satsangi, who tolerates the rebukes of the saints, can win his own pride.

The instable attitude of a monkey is another difficulty of a human being. A person went to a Swami and expressed his difficulties. Swami asked him to perform chanting eleven *Mala* of the name of the Almighty Lord. After one week, the man returned to Swami. He complained that there was no improvement in his plight. Swami asked the man to have patience. One can not take the mangoes immediately after sowing the seeds of the mango tree. A person should make efforts, he should pray and he should wait for the right time having patience then only he gets success.

A man was suffering from the stomach-

ache. So he went to the doctor, he took the medicines twice in a day but did not get himself cured. He again went to the doctor and took one injection but in vain. He approached another doctor and took two injections but futile. He went to a person knowing sorcery and asked for the cure of his pain. This is called instable attitude. If this man would have cherished patience and faith in one doctor, he would have got himself cured. So when a person who cherishes faith and patience in the Almighty Lord and the saints, his such instable attitude is removed.

The cowardly attitude of a goat is not good for a devotee. If he has no enthusiasm in his *Bhajan-Bhakti, Katha-Varta* then anyone can drag him to any direction, because his attitude is like a goat. But can anyone dare to direct a lion? Persons who are cowardly by their nature or temperament can be led in any direction but a brave devotee cannot be shaken from his path. A person who worships the Lord Shree Swaminarayan cannot be dragged away and he becomes brave- **A Sahjanandi Lion.**

Hail this Trust!

- Sadhu Shrirang Maharaj (Gandhinagar)

Friends! Can any person lead his life with only one breathing? One may argue that, without breathing life is not possible. This is true but merely breathing is not life. To lead a life in real sense one also needs trust and confidence. Breathing controls merely our body whereas trust and confidence control the whole life. If you do not believe in this truth, here is one example!

There was one Ashram in one forest. One Mahatma along with his one hundred disciples was residing in this Ashram. These disciples used to render services and learn Vedas from their Guru. They used to perform all daily chores from early morning till evening and keep the Ashram neat and clean. It is natural that all the disciples may not be same but this Guru had such an impact upon all the disciples that none of the disciples dared to displease their Guru. This noble thought is the base of peace and pleasure and unity.

This Mahatma was also very simple, generous and benevolent and an idol of patience. One day Guru took one of disciples in a pilgrimage. During the pilgrimage the disciple rendered all the services. One day the Guru and

the disciple were sleeping under a tree of one forest. A snake went out of the hole of the tree. Guru woke up and saw the snake. So he took a stick in his hand and warned the snake with his stick. But this was not a common snake- it was Vasanik in his previous birth. He starting speaking to Guru in human voice. He told the Guru not to stop him as he wanted to take revenge from the disciple as the disciple was his enemy in the previous birth. The Guru tried to, convince the Vasanik snake to forget his animosity. But the snake did not agree. At last the Guru proposed a way. If the Guru would offer the blood of his disciple then the snake would forget and forgive his enemy. The snake agreed. Immediately the Guru took out a knife, made a cut upon the throat of the disciple took some blood upon one leaf of a tree. The snake accepted it and went away being satisfied that his revenge was taken. The moment the snake went away, the Guru applied the turmeric herbal medicine upon the injured part of the body of his disciple. During the whole incident, the disciple did not say anything. He simply surrendered himself to his Guru.

The Guru asked his disciple, why he did not react when a cut was made to his throat with a knife. The disciple replied that, so far the Guru had been taking care of his life so why he should be worried about anything. Guru has always been worried about the happiness of all of his disciples so he thought that whatever was being done by the Guru would be for something good for him. When the Guru narrated everything to his disciple the disciple was surprised. Because by offering only some blood, his Guru had saved his life.

The trust of the disciple in his Guru not only increased the confidence of the disciple but also won the pleasure of his Guru. So friends! Now tell what is more important in life? Breathing or trust? Therefore all of us should cherish such trust and confidence in our saints, Sampradaya, Guru and Shreeji Maharaj. Lord Shreeji Maharaj himself has stated in Vachanamrit that, those devotees who cherish ardent trust and confidence in their Lord, are not afraid of death. There have been many such devotees in our Sampradaya who have cherished such trust and confidence in Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

**From the blessings of H.H. Shri Gadiwala
'Purpose of this Human Life'**

- Kotak Varsha Natvarlal (Ghodasar)

Today people abuse and misuse their life very much. In fact our human birth is very rare because, one gets birth as a human being, after taking birth in eighty four lac births and after suffering the woes of the womb, a soul gets birth of human life. Now the woes of the womb are more woeful than the miseries of *Kumbhi Pak Narka* as described in the scriptures. While in the womb of the mother, a soul has the knowledge and consciousness of hundred lives and prays to the Almighty Lord to grant him freedom from the woes of this womb. But once the soul takes birth in this world, it forgets everything and gets lost in the Maya of this world. Paramatma (the Supreme Soul) gives many opportunities but the human soul does not strive for his own emancipation. Then what is the purpose and meaning of this human life?

In this connection, H.H. Shri Gadiwala states that, just as a painter is found lost in making a beautiful painting. We find that, he is not aware about the day-night or heat and cold of the weather. He remains concentrated in his work and keeps on doing his work. At that time we feel that, what he would do after completing this painting. But on completion of one painting, he takes up another painting and starts the work thereon. It would not do if you do not make your life meaningful because we have obtained this human life very rarely and we do not know whether we would again get this human birth. Perhaps, one may again get human birth but then it is not sure whether he would again get Satsang. This rare company of Satsang is very valuable in our life and it should not be allowed to be wasted. Just as real use of money lies in its proper utilization.

There was a rich person. He was so much rich that, he had golden bricks yet he was very greedy; and he was not managing his money properly. He did not use his money. He would open his treasure in the morning, count them and feel happy but he would not make use of it. His son was very intelligent. He knew that his father was very greedy which is not proper. So he got prepared brazen bricks which looked

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exactly like the golden bricks. One day he replaced the golden bricks with the brazen bricks in so smart way that, his father could not know it.

Similarly, a person may perform all the daily rituals of *Pooja-Path, Bhakti* etc. and feels that his work is over. But this is not true, he should understand the importance of this rare human life and should keep on performing *Satsang* and *Bhajan-Bhakti* regularly. A man does not know that, his inner enemies are his anger, pride, greed and excessive affection towards anything. We do not know when any of these inner enemies would raise their heads against us; so we should keep on performing Satsang regularly and thereby we would be able to prevent the attack of these enemies. But without Satsang, a man cannot know about his place in human life.

Every man feels that, whatever he is doing is just and proper. But it is not so. By performing Satsang, a man confesses his weaknesses and thereby gets an opportunity to improve them. By remaining in Satsang, he gets the ability to identify thousands of his inner enemies; he also gets the understanding that, he has come in Satsang to get rid of all these weaknesses. Therefore, while performing Satsang, a person has to find out his condition at the time just before he entered into Satsang and his present condition. Umpteen number of infirmities of thousands of previous lives are lying hidden in all of us. We need to identify them and it is essential to get rid of them. Therefore it is essential to perform Satsang because it is through Satsang that we get the abilities to identify our inner infirmities and weaknesses and we also get the ways and means to get rid of them. Even Shreeji Maharaj has stated in *Vachanamrit*, "*Obtaining Moksha (emancipation) is the ultimate goal and purpose of human life.*"

A Lemon Tree in Darbargadh - Sankhyayogi Alpaben Shilpaben (Gadhada)

Lord Shree Swaminarayan has narrated and explained Vachamrit in Darbar of Dada sitting under the lemon tree. Let us understand a brief history of this lemon tree. Atmanand Swami, the Guru of Sadguru Ramanand Swami, and his disciples Juktanand, Muktanand, Kshema Swami and Harbai and Valbai etc. graced the village Sardhar. They performed Bhajan-Smaran in the village and preached the scriptures to the villagers.

One poor Brahmin, named Vithal was staying in the village Sardhar. His wife had passed away leaving a very young child and therefore this Brahmin was very unhappy in his life. So in order to get mental peace, this Brahmin used to come to Atmanand Swami to perform Satsang. One day Swami asked the Brahmin why he was so desolate and dejected? Then the Brahmin Vithal narrated to Swami everything that he has a very little child and the mother of the child has passed away. As very little child needs breast feeding of his mother, he has to take the help of a woman. So Swami asked the Brahmin to bring the child in Darbar. The next day, Vithal brought his child in front of Swami. Swami took the child in his lap, but the child was crying like anything. Swami asked Vithal to offer the child his own breast feeding. Vithal requested Swamiji not to make fun of his plight, as it is impossible for a male to offer his breast feeding to a child. But Swami told him that, if he would cherish motherly love and affection towards the child, this would be possible. With the blessings of Swami and genuine love and affection of Vithal towards his child, breast feeding could be made possible. So Vithal surrendered his life and the life of his child at the feet of Swami. Later on Swami granted them Diksha. Vithal became Vithalanand and a child became Balanand.

Once Vithalanand and Balanand graced the village Umej of Babariyawad. Both of them went to the field of Lakha Patel to take bath. After taking bath, they went to the nearby garden. Vithalanand observed a Lemon tree in the garden and smiled. When Balanand asked the reason for his smile, Vithalanand told that,

here under this Lemon Tree, the Almighty Lord himself would come and preach the scriptures to the devotees and thereby there would be emancipation of many souls.

At that time Ebhal Khachar of Gadhada had come to Umej for some work and he had also been in the same garden. Darbar Ebhal Khachar overheard the conversation of these two saints. So he demanded a lemon plant from the gardener and planted it in the center of his Darbargadh and nurtured it himself because he knew that here under the lemon tree the Almighty Purnapurushottam Lord Shree Swaminarayan himself is going to sit. In the course of time, the lemon plant grown into a tress and under the tree as per the prediction of Vithalanand Swami the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, when the Lord graced Darbar of Ebhal Khachar, preached the scripture 'Vachanamrit' to the devotees.

Firm Faith

- Sankhya Yogi Ushaba Guru Sankhya Yogi Kamlaba (Surendranagar)

A devotee who has ardent faith in the Almighty Lord and the saints, he can do anything and everything for the Lord and the saints. He can leave everything in life- family, wealth, status, pride, pleasure, property and he can offer all these things for Satsang. If any of his relatives come in the way of his worship, he can also leave such relatives. In fact such a devotee becomes happy to offer his dearest thing to the Almighty Lord.

Once a group of saints graced the village Khopala. With the arrival of the saints, there was surge in joy and enthusiasm in Satsang of the village through *Katha-Varta-Dhoon* and *Kirtan*. Therefore devotee Jetha Bhagat of the village became very happy. Even the Almighty Lord was very much pleased with Satsang of the devotee of Jetha Bhagat. He was very considerate in his all worldly affairs and therefore he was well off having milky cattle as well as the cellar full with the grains throughout the year.

One day the wife of Jethabhai asked him to offer a bowl full of milk to *Sadhu* of the temple of the village. She said, "*Sadhu* would offer the milk in *Thaal* to Maharaj and then he would

accept the meals; this would grant blessings of the Almighty in our home.” Jetha Bhagat brought the bowl to the temple, offered it to Sadhu, who was performing *Katha-Kirtan* in the temple. In the evening Bhagat asked whether the offerings made by his house were utilized. *Sadhu* said smilingly that, they had received a bowl full of fresh buttermilk from his house. From the buttermilk very delicious curry was prepared and it was offered to Thakorji and all the companions of *Sadhu* had relished the *Prasad*. Bhagat came home took two of his milky buffaloes to Gadhpur and offered the cattle to Kothari of temple and stated that, he wanted to offer the buffaloes to the temple so that Thakorji can be offered the milk and the saints of the temple can have this *Prasad*.

There have been many ardent devotees like Jetha Bhagat in our Sampradaya, who do not hesitate while offering anything and everything to Maharaj. Their faith and devotion towards the Almighty Lord is firm and unshaken like a mountain. And therefore during their critical times, the Almighty Lord protects them. In this Kaliyug, devotees of the Almighty Lord have to tolerate many sufferings. Many people are found leaving their worship and Bhakti, blaming the Lord for their miseries. But this is not proper. One should have ardent faith in Almighty Lord just like the devotee Jetha Bhagat, who cannot be swayed away from his worship and faith in the Almighty Lord. Then such worship and faith can be called mature and firm and then Almighty Lord invariably protects such devotees.

Who is he?

- Tarlaben Atulbhai Pothiwala (Memnagar, A'bad)

Little Ghanshyam Maharaj was very fond of performing *Darshan* of the Almighty Lord, *Satsang* with the saints and listening to *Katha-Varta*. While listening to *Katha-Varta*, he would forget the time and it would cause his arrival at home very late. Therefore, *Bhaktimata* was very much worried because at that time there was harassment of the demons everywhere. And there were happenings murders and kidnapping of and on. There was no security of the properties and valuable belongings of the

people.

Therefore, *Bhaktimata* asked Ghanshyam, “Henceforth if you come home late, the doors would not be opened for you.” Little Ghanshyam did not reply and just smiled. *Bhaktimata* said, “This is a serious matter and he should not laugh.” Then Ghanshyam Maharaj said, “Who takes more precautions then he?”

One night while returning home it was again late for Ghanshyam Maharaj. One saint from the Himalayas had come and in rendering services and listening to the talks of the saint Ghanshyam got very late. At home *Bhaktimata* was very much worried. When little Ghanshyam knocked the door, she asked, “Who is he?” Ghanshyam replied, “I am Ghanshyam.” The mother was very angry upon the son but she loved her son very much. Furthermore, she had great learning of Sanskrit language, so she interpreted the word ‘Ghanshyam’ as **a dark cloud** and played prank by telling that if he was Ghanshyam then he may rain in the forest. Ghanshyam was also very learned in Sanskrit. He replied, “I am Nilkanth.” The word ‘Nilkanth’ in Sanskrit also means **‘a peacock with dark neck’**. So *Bhaktimata* said that if he was Nilkanth then he should fly and seat on the top of the dome of a temple.

Ghanshyam said, “I am Harikrishna.” Which in Sanskrit means **a Black Lion**.

Bhaktimata said, “I have never heard a lion to be black.

Ghanshyam said, “I am Dharmaputra.” Which in Sanskrit means **Yudhisthira** of the great epic Mahabharat.

Bhaktimata said, “The elder brother of Bhima had no son.”

Ghanshyam said, “I am Bhaktisut.”

Bhaktimata said, “Bhaktisut has Vairagya as well as Gyan.”

Ghanshyam said, “I am the same. In fact I am more than that.”

Immediately *Bhaktimata* opened the doors and took her dearest child in her lap. Thereafter both the mother and the son took the meals together and slept peacefully.

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Dhooon Mahotsav During Dhanur Maas in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur

In the pious company of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev and the Other Forms of Shree Hari, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhooon has been started at 5.00 hours early in the morning on 16th December 2009 during the pious Dhanur Maas in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad. No devotee wanted to let go this opportunity and therefore a large number of devotees had thronged together to perform Maha Dhooon in front of Shree Rangmahol Ghanshyam Maharaj during the pious Dhanur Maas in the presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Similarly ladies devotees had also thronged together in Haveli of the ladies devotees to perform Dhooon in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Laxmi Swaroop Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala. As the vehicles could not be parked in the premises of the temple, the vehicles had to be parked upto Relief Road, Ghee Kanta and Dabgarwad. From 5.30 to 6.30 there is only one Dhooon of Mahamantra and nothing else. Guidance and management of Mahant Swami Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat really deserves all praise. This time it was all time record of 1200 Maasik Dhooon by the whole Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj family and by the saints and devotees in the names of their Guru. Moreover about more than 5000 Dainik Dhooon were also rendered by the devotees and Haribhaktas.

Thus, the whole Dhanur Maas from 16th December to 14th January was full of Dhooon of Mahamantra. there was also distribution of Prasad wherein with the inspiration of Kothari Digambar Bhagat, Kothari J.K. Swami, Baldev Swami (Bapu), Brahmachari Raju Swami, Yogi Swami, Muni Swami, Bhandari Suryaprakashdasji, Purani Dharmjivandasji Divyaprakash Swami and Bhushan Bhagat, Chetan Bhagat, Nandkishor, Tapanbhai, Hardikbhai, Bhikhabhai and many other devotees of Katiyawar, among the devotees of office, Shri Ghanshyamsinh Zala, Shri Bharatbhai Bhavsar, Pravinbhai Patel etc. had rendered their services. It is an humble prayer at the lotus like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev that Shreeji Maharaj, H.H.

Shri Acharya Maharaj (both) and the saints may always remain pleased with the services rendered silently by thousands of devotees during this pious Dhanur Maas. (Kothari J.K. Swami)

SNEH MILAN OF SHREE NARNARAYANDEV YUVAK MANDAL (KOTESHWAR GURUKUL)

On Sunday 29/11/2009 from 4.30 to 7.30 in the evening, a programme of Sneh Milan of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal (with family) was organized in the pious presence of Dharmkul in the premises of Shree Sahjanand Gurukul.

On this occasion, Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji (Vadnagar) delivered his speech in which he provided guidance how to propagate the purview of Shree Swaminarayan Magazine and how to boost the activities of Bal Mandal. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur) delivered speech explaining the importance of Tilak and Chandlo, Shastri Swami Nirgundasji (Asarwa Gurukul) explained Dharmada of Dev (1/10th and 1/20th share of earning) with beautiful comments. Bramchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Kothari J.K. Swami, Rajendra Swami, Mahant Devprakashdasji of Naranghat temple had remained present on this occasion. devotee Poorav Patel and the singer group had performed a beautiful programme of Kirtan Bhakti. Chief Host of the programme devotee Shri Kaushikbhai Patadiya and other co-host families had performed poojan-archan of Dharmkul and had obtained the blessings.

H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had granted to the young children devotees the benefit of *Darshan* in the *Sabha* of children. H.H. Shri Raja had granted the benefit of Darshan to Balikas and H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala had granted the benefit of Darshan and blessings to the ladies devotees on this occasion. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had granted to the devotees the divine benefit of Darshan and blessings and they were very much pleased. at last Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple had delivered the vote of thanks. The managment of the whole programme and the Sabha were conducted beautifully by Nana P.P. Swami and Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteswar Gurukul). At last arrangement for Maha Prasad was also made.

(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)

CELEBRATION OF INVOCATION OF IDOL IMAGES IN NEW HARI-MANDIR IN JAMIYATPURA

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shri P.P. Swami of Jetalpur and guidance of the members of the Ahmedabad Temple Scheme Committee and the devotee Shri Dashrathbhai Prahaladbhai Patel and with the support of all other devotees and Haribhaktas, a beautiful and grand Hari-temple has been constructed in the place of Prasad of Shree Hari at the village Jamiyatpura. On completion of the construction work of the temple, grand Mahotsav of invocation of idol images of the deities was also organized.

On the occasion of this Mahotsav, Shree Mahavishnu Yaag, Katha Parayan, Nagar-Yatra, Shobha-Yatra etc. were also organized and concluded in a grand manner. Shastri Swami Ghanshymaprakashdasji (Jamiyatpura) was the spokesperson of Katha Parayan. on the first day Mahant Shastri Swami ATmaprakashdasji of Jetalpur had lighted the lamp and had delivered the inaugural speech of Mahotsav. during the Mahotsav, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala Shri had graced the village and had granted the benefit of Darshan to the devotees of the village.

on 24/11/2009, a Nagar-Yatra and Kalash-Yatra along with the idol images of the deities were also organized in the village. on 25/11/2009 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the village at 8.00 hours in the morning, at that time the whole village performed Samaiyu. Tereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed the ritual of invocation of the idol imaged in Vedic tradition. which was followed by concluding aarti of Maha Vishnu Yaag and Parayan by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. This occasion was also graced by H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shri, who had granted the benefit of Darshan and blessings to the ladies devotees of the village.

In the Sabha organized on the occasion, the host families and performed poojan-archan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. The hosts were honoured by by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj by offering them Swaroop of Thakorji. On this occasion, Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple, Mahant Swami of Jetalpur and Mahant Swami of our Shree Swaminarayan temples at Naranghat, Kankariya, Chhapaiya, Muli, Siddhpur, Charadva, Limbdi, Surendranagar, Laloda, Torda, Sokli and Badrinarayandham had also remained

present and had delivered the speeches suitable to the occasion.

During the management of the whole Mahotsav, Shastgri Mahavjivandasji (Mount Abu Gurukul) had rendered great services, who was honoured with garland and blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha and had stated that, Jamiyatpura is his village on maternal side, had blessed all the devotees and was very much pleased. At last on behalf of all the devotees of the village, devotee shri Prakashbhai Ashabhai Patel had delivered vote of thanks for various kinds of services rendered by the saint and Haribhaktas.

(Himathbhai Kothari)

CELEBRATION OF DASABDI MAHOTSAV IN SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, GANDHINAGAR (SECTOR-2)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Dasabdi Mahotsav in S Swaminarayan Temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-2) was celebrated from 17/11/2009 to 21/11/2009.

During the Mahotsav, Shrimad Satsanjivan Parayan was organized. Shastri Satsangbhusandas, the disciple of Shri Dhyani Swami was the spokesperson of the Parayan. On this occasion Abhishek of Panchamrit was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. thereafter, Annakut Aarti was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. All the saints who had arrived from various places were welcomed by Shri Dhyani Swami. Shri Dhyani Swami had also performed Poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, had offered the garlands and had obtained the blessings. Pious presence of the whole Dharmkul had doubled the enthusiasm of the devotees during the Mahotsav. Activity of Satsang Abhudaya, being conducted by Dhyani Swami at an age of 86 years was specially praised by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had stated that life of Swami provides inspiration to others. Many devotees of residing in the country and in abroad had availed the divine benefit of Prasad. (Prof. Suryakant Bhatt-Bhuj)

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, PETHAPUR

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, from 9th December to 13th December 2009, Satsangi Jivan Panchan Parayan, Laxmi Vivah, a Drama on the Importance of Satsang, etc. spiritual programmes were organized in the pious presence of Shri Dyani Swami in Shree

Swaminarayan temple, Pethapur.

On 10/12/2009, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Mahabhishek and Annakut of the idol images of the deities and also poojan of the scripture Satsangijivan. The devotees, who had remained present on the occasion, had performed poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj with the garlands and had obtained the blessings. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had stated how essential it is to have such Utsav-Samaiya in Sampradaya. Shri Dhyani Swami has been rendering services even at the age of 86 years, and all his arrangements are always perfect and thus his saintly life is a source of inspiration for all. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the Sabha.

Aa Drama on 'Importance of Satsang' was written by Shri Dhyani Swami vividly describing the directions of Shreeji Maharaj as contained in 'Shiksha-Patri'. The drama was prepared by the collegian students residing in Kanbha Gurukul. The subjects like 'Freedom from Addiction', 'Purification of the Meals' and 'Importance of Satsang and Saints' were covered in the drama, which was a centre of attraction of all the devotees. (Proft. Suryakant Bhatt)

INVOCATION OF IDOL IMAGES IN AANTROLI TEMPLE

With the noble concept of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Sadguru Bhandari Swami Jankivallabhdasji of Ahmedabad temple, invocation of the idol images was celebrated in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Aantrolī at the place of Prasadi of the house of the devotee Shri Haribhat Bhatt where Shreeji Maharaj had accepted *Thaal*.

On this occasion, from 18/11/2009 to 22/11/2009, Shrimad Bhagwat Panchan̄h Parayan was organized. Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji of Muli and the present Mahant Swami of Naranpura temple was the spokesperson of the Parayan.

Ritual of Three Day Panch Kundi Mahavishnu Yag was got performed by Shri Rajubhai Shukla (Umreth). H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendrprasadsji Maharaj, Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ahmedabad), Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar Sector-23), Bhandari Swami Jankivallabhdasji (Nathdwara), Sadguru Swami Ghanshymajivandasji (Laloda), Sadguru Swami Shyamcharandasji (Jetalpura) had performed Mangaldeep Pragatya of Mahotsav. The Sabha was conducted by Sadguru

Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji and Shastri Swami Vasudevcharandasji Guru Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji.

From the construction of the temple till the ritual of invocation of the idol images, all the arrangements were looked after by Sadguru Swami Dharmswaroopdasji and Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji with the support and co-operation of the devotees.

During the Mahotsav, H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala had graced the occasion on 20/11/2009 and H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala had graced the occasion on 22/11/2009 and had granted to the ladies devotees the benefit of Darshan and blessings.

On 22/11/2009, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion along with H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. At that time, all the devotees of the village had performed divine Samaiyu and had also organized Shobha-Yatra. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had performed the ritual of the invocation of the idol images of Thakorji in the temple in Vedic tradition and had also performed Annakut Aarti. Thereafter concluding ritual of Vishnu Yaag and Katha Parayan was also performed by them.

In the Sabha organized on the occasion, the hosts of the Mahotsav had performed Poojan-archan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. Similarly H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had honoured the host families, offered the Mementos and had blessed them and at last addressed the sabha whose benefit was availed by all the saints who had arrived on the occasion from various places. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had blessed all the devotees of the village, Bhandari Swami Jankivallabhdasji and Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji and were very much pleased with them.

During all the five days of Mahotsav, Mahaprasad was given both the times to all the devotees of the village. On this occasion, Swami Baldevprasaddasji (Dholera), Swami Vishwaprakashdasji (Laloda), Swami Devprasaddas, Swami Aniruddhcharandas (Muli), devotees Shri Bhogilal Bhagat, Shastri Swami Viveksagardas, Mahant Swami Swayamprakashdas (Delhi), Swami Sukhnandandas, Swami Sarveshwardas (Detroit), Parshad Mandal and Yuvak Mandal and many other

volunteers and devotees had rendered their services in the kitchen. (Dharmendrabhai Patel)

CELEBRATION OF TRISHATABDI SATSANG AMRUT MAHOTSAV IN SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, GANDHINAGAR (SECTOR-23)

With the blessings of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and inspiration of Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji, Trishatabdi Satsang Amrut Mahotsav of our Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-23) was celebrated from 23/12/2009 to 27/12/2009.

On this occasion, Satsang Talim Sabha, Deaf and Dumb Service Samarpan Yagna, Medical Camp, Cardiology and Diabetic diseases related Diagnostic Camp, Shankhabhishek with Vedic Stotra, Trishatabdi Tula-ritual, Maha Aarti, Jan Sukhakari Amrut Yatra, Satsang Gosthi, Shree Hari Vishnu Yaag, various cultural programmes of the ladies and young children devotees were organized in a very disciplined manner.

On Sunday 27/12/2009, on the occasion of concluding ritual of Mahotsav, our future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj graced the occasion and granted to the devotees the divine benefit of Darshan & blessings.

On this pious occasion, the books 'Shree Hari Vicharan Leela' and 'Astang Yog Darshan' written by Shastri Swami were released by H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, all the devotees had availed the benefit of blessings of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj.

All Haribhaktas had participated in the Mahotsav with great fervour and enthusiasm and had availed the divine benefit. At the end of the Sabha, all the devotees had taken Mahaprasad.

(Rajinibhai Patel)

DASHABDI MAHOTSAV OF SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, VADU

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and our Future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj, Dashabdi Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadu and 4th Patotsav of Shree Hanumanji Temple was organized from 20/11/2009 to 24/11/2009. During this Mahotsav 'Shrimad Satsangibhusan Panchanah Parayan Gyan Yagna' was organized. The host of the Katha Parayan was Akshar Nivasi devotee Patel

Bhaktibhai Khodidas Patel family and his children devotee Shri Patel Rajubhai (President, Cherry Hill Temple, America) and devotee Shri Patel Gautambhai (Canada). Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji of Vadnagar was the spokesperson of the Parayan.

On this occasion a Three Day Hari Yaag was also organized whose chief host was devotee Amrutbhai Ramdas Madhavdas Patel Family. There was also one day Shree Maruti Yagna whose chief host was devotee Bholdas Madhavdas Patel family (through devotee Atmarambhai Patel). Moreover on this pious occasion, Shree Swaminarayan temple, Shree Hanumanji temple and the main roads of Vadu village were decorated with the series of light which had attracted the attention of all.

On this occasion, wonderful arrangement of Blood Donation Camp was made whose benefit was availed by innumerable devotees. On this occasion, various cultural programmes were also organized.

During Dashabdi Mahotsav, many saints from various places had arrived and had expressed their best wishes. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj had also graced this occasion whose Swagat Poojan was performed by little kids and children and the members of Bal Mandal. On this occasion Ekadashi Samhita Path was also organized whose benefit was availed by various host families.

Accepting the ardent invitation of the ladies devotees of Vadu village, H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala had graced this pious occasion. Many devotees from the nearby villages such as Karjisan, Dangarwa, Mokhasan, Ola, Zulasan, Kalol, Kotha, Paliyad, Dingucha, Narola, Bhaupura, Pansar had availed the benefit of this divine Mahotsav. The concluding ritual of this Mahotsav was performed on 24/11/2009 at 8.30 hours in the morning which was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj. Samaiyu of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj by all the devotees of the village followed by Shobha Yatra were the attractions of this Mahotsav.

The host of Shobha Yatra, devotee Shri Dahyabhai Madhavdas Bajidas Patel family had performed poojan-aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Annakut Aarti of Thakorji in the temple. The host of Annakut-

devotee Shri Amrutbhai Pitambardas Pate and the host of Abhishek of Thakorji devotee Shri Vishnubhai Ambalal Shivdas Patel (Bhagat) family had welcomed H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj with garlands. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the temple of ladies and performed Aarti of Thakorji and graced Shree Hari Yag Mandap and performed the concluding ritual of Yagna. From there H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced Shree Hanumanji temple and performed aarti-poojan of the idol image of Hanumanji which was invoked by Sadguru Brahmchari Vasudevanandji and granted the devotees the divine benefit of Darshan.

Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced Katha-Mandap, performed poojan of the scripture and the spokesperson of Katha and performed concluding aarti of Katha Parayan. devotee Shri Natvarbhai Mafatlal Nandas Patel family availed divine and rare benefit of poojan-archan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. The co-host of Shree Hari Yag, devotee Shri Kalabhai Somdas Ambalal Patel family and the co-host of Maruti Yagna devotee Akshar Nivasi Ambalal Shivdas Patel Family and devotee Gandabhai Babaldas Nathubhai Patel and Akshar Nivasi Jayantibhai Manilal Patel family and the devotee Bharatbhai Patel family and the host of the Flag devotee Shri Rajubhjai B. Patel and devotee Shri Gautambhai B. Patel (USA) and the host of the Flag of Shree Hanumanji temple devotee Shri Ramanbhai Somdas Madhavdas Patel and devotee Shri Ghanshyambhadi Bhoidas Bechardas Patel and devotee Shri Ambalal Shivedas Gopaldas Patel and devotee Shri Jayantibhai Ramdas Patel and devotee Patel Pravinbhai Trikamdas and devotee Shri Bhembabhai Shivdas and devotee Shri Revabhai Nathudas and many other hosts and donors devotees and Haribhaktas had availed the benefit of poojan-archan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. On this occasion, all the members of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal and Kothari of Temple had also performed Swagat Poojan and had obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Devotee Patel Arvindbhai Bhikhabhai Ramdas Patel family had also performed Swagat Poojan and had obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

Learned Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji, Sadguru Shastri Swami Chhapaiyaprasaddasji, Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Guruprasaddasji, Sadguru Shastri Swami

Abhishekprasaddasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Abhishekprasaddasji (Biliya) from various places had arrived on this pious occasion and had explained to the devotees in their speeches the importance of Satsang Seva, Smaran and Basic Principles of the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

Being very much pleased with this Mahotsav, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the saints and devotees and stated in his Amrutvani that, real wealth in human life is Relation with the Almighty Lord and only in this relation, real happiness of this world and other world are lying hidden. It is our luck that we have been able to identify the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Satsang of Vadu is spread over the whole country as well as in abroad and happiness of the village is a result of the mercy of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. So let all of us pray at the lotus like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev that through celebration of this Dashabdi Mahotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadu, Satsang of the village may flourish more and more.

(Shastri Narayanvallabhdasji-Vadnagar)

SAMAU (CHAUDHARI)

On the pious day of Magsar Sud-15, on the occasion of Jeevat Charya of the devotee Shri Karshanbhai (Saheb) and Vastu ritual of his house, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced the occasion along with the saints. On this occasion, Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteswar Gurukul) had narrated inspirational *Katha-Varta* to the devotees.

In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Shastri Nana P.P. Swami had furnished valuable information about the noble concept of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj about Shree Swaminarayan Museum and details about its inauguration. Accordingly devotees of the village had rendered their services in Shree Swaminarayan Museum. At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha.

SHRIMAD SATSANGIJIVAN PARAYAN, DETROJ

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the whole Dharmvanshi Family and inspiration of Shastri Nana P.P. Swami (Naranghat Mahant), from 16/12/2009 to 20/12/2009, Shrimad Satsangijivan Panchan Parayan was organized at the village Detroj. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Sadguru Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteswar Gurukul) were the spokespersons of Parayan. H.H. Shri Acharya

Maharaj had graced this occasion and had performed aarti of Thakorji in 127 years old temple of the village Detroj. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced and blessed the whole Sabha.

On the occasion of concluding ritual of Parayan, Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple had arrived and had performed concluding aarti of Katha-Parayan and had delivered inspirational blessings in the Sabha organized on the occasion. Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji of Naranghat temple, Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji and saints from Sokli had also arrived on the occasion. Devotee Shri Ganpatbhai Barot family had availed the benefit of rendering services as the host. The Sabha was conducted by Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdas

(Bharatbhai Kothari)

GRAND UTSAV AT ISHWARPURA (BADPURA)

With the blessings of the Lord Shree Hari and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant sWami Devprakashdasji and Mahant Shastri Nana P.P. Swami (Naranghat), one Utsav of the worldly life turned out to be a religious festival. From 04/12/2009 to 06/12/2009, Utsav of Jeevacharya of the devotees Shri Dahyabhai Chaudhary and Menaba Chaudhary was celebrated by organizing a Three DAY Shree Hari Gita by their children devotees Shri Vishnubhai (N.D.) and Shri Mahendrabhai. On this occasion, three leaders of the Chaudhary community Shri Haribhai Chaudhary, Dr. Shri Raghuvir Chaudhary and Shri Kanjibhai Chaudhary were honoured and Sneh Milan of the whole Chaudhary community was also organized simultaneously.

The spokesperson of Katha, Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji beautifully narrated incidents of Katha. On the first day, all the devotees of the village had performed grand Samaiyu of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. On the second day H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had graced the occasion and had blessed the whole village. H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala also graced the occasion and blessed all the ladies devotees of the village. On the third day H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj graced the occasion and performed the concluding ritual of Katha. The leaders of the society were honoured by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

Among the saints who had arrived on this occasion, were Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji. At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had praised the services rendered by three leaders of social service of Chaudhary community and blessed

them all. The whole village had availed the benefit of Prasad during all the three days. On the last day more than 25000 people had availed the benefit of Kathamrut and Prasad. (Kothari, Ishwarpura)

SHRIMAD BHAGWAT SAPTAH PARAYAN, IN KANKARIA TEMPLE

With the blessings of Shreeji Maharaj and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Mahant Swami Anandswami, and with the noble concept of Prof. Kadambariben N. Dave of Kankaria, from 09/11/2009 to 15/11/2009 Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria, on the occasion of Janma-Shatabdi of Akshar Nivasi Leelaben Mulshankar Dave.

Learned Kathakar Shastri Swami Nirgundasji was the spokesperson of the Parayan. The Sabha was conducted by Shastri Kothari Yagnaprakashdas. In the beginning of the Katha, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced the occasion and had lighted the lamp and had also blessed Akshar Nivasi the Host devotee Shri Maheshbhai Dave family. Many saints from various places had arrived on this occasion. H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala had graced the occasion to bless the ladies devotees.

During Katha, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj had also graced the occasion. On the occasion of concluding ritual of Katha, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and had performed the concluding ritual. Members of the host family had performed poojan-archan and had obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Mahant Swami Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Mahant Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji of Jetalpur temple, and the saints of Samhita Path had blessed the host devotee families. At last the Sabha was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. During all the seven days saints, Bhudev and the devotees were offered the meals. Services of Dev Swami, Poojari Shastri Yagnaprakashdas, Golok Swami, Narottam Bhagat, and also of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal were inspirational. (Natubhai G. Patel)

INVOCATION OF IDOL IMAGES IN NEW TEMPLE, LUNAWADA (FANCHMAHALS)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, construction of new temple in Chhapaiyadham Society in Lunawada village of

Panchmahals district was completed under the guidance and supervision of Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur) and on completion of the construction work, invocation ceremony of the idol images of the deities in the new temple was organized.

On this occasion, Shrimad Bhagwat Panchan Parayan was organized. Shastri Swami Bhaktinandandasji (Jetalpur) was the spokesperson of Parayan. Besides this Vishnu Yaag and Shobha Yatra of the idol images were also organized during the Mahotsav. This occasion was graced by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. H.H. Shri Gadiwala had also graced the occasion and had granted to the ladies devotees the benefit of Darshan and blessings.

On the last day, the occasion was graced by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the invocation ritual of the idol images in the inner temple was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Vedic tradition. Thereafter Invocation aarti of Thakorji was also performed in Vedic tradition and had also performed concluding aarti of Yagna and Parayan. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, many saints had arrived and had granted blessings. At last the whole village was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. On the last day all the devotees and Haribhaktas of the nearby villages had taken Prasad.

(Shree Narnarayande Vuvak Mandal)

RELIGIOUS TRIP OF SHREE NARNARAYANDEV BAL MANDAL

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration of the devotee Shri Gopalbhai Modi (Ahmedabad Temple Bal Mandal), Shri Pravinbhai Upadhyay (Bopal) and with the co-operation of the devotee Shri Amrutbhai Patel (Kothari, Bopal temple) and devotee Shri Surendrabhai Patel (Vishalawala), a Religious Trip of Bal Satsang of Ahmedabad and Bopal temples was organized on 06/12/2009. During the trip, the participant children performed Darshan of Shangar Aarti of the Lord Shree Narnarayande. Thereafter they performed journey to Kankariya temple and Shree Revati Baldevji Maharaj in Jetalpur in luxury bus and performed Darshan of the deities. In Jetalpur, a Sabha was organized wherein disciple group of Mahant Shastri Atmaprakashdasji had vividly described wonderful Leela of Jetalpur. Thereafter all the children were offered Prasad in Jetalpur temple. They also performed Darshan in Vadi of Prasadi, played many games joyously and returned to Ahmedabad in the evening. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj has suggested to arrange such type of religious trips. (Gordhanbhai Sitapara)

MULI DESH

4TH PATOTSAV OF SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, SURENDRANAGAR

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Swami Sadguru Premjivandasji, beautiful arrangement of 4th Patotsav of the deity of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar was organized.

On this occasion, Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah was organized from 29/11/2009 to 04/12/2009. Sadguru Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji (Naranpura Mahant) was the spokesperson of Parayan. Sadguru Shastri Swami Divyaprakashdasji (Muli) had performed Samhita Path. The host of the Patotsav was the devotee Shri Amrutlal Nanjibhai Mamtara family of Surendranagar.

On this occasion, Shree Hari Yaag, Mahabhishek of Thakorji, Annakut and various cultural programmes for children and girls were organized. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Gadiwala, H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala and Shri Raja- thus the whole Dharmvanshi family had graced the occasion. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Shodashopchar Mahabhishek ritual of Thakorji. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, many saints

had arrived from various places and had delivered their speeches. At last the whole Sabha was blessed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

On the occasion of Patotsav, many saints, Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees and thousands of Haribhaktas and devotees of Zalawad region had performed Darshan. During the whole arrangement, Swami Premvallabhdasji, Jishnu Swami, Raju Swami (Ahmedabad), Shantiprakashdasji, Bhakti Swami and Kanu Bhagat had rendered their services. Under the guidance of Kothari Swami, all Haribhaktas and ladies devotees as also Shree Narnarayande Vuvak Mandal had rendered very beautiful and inspirational services.

(Shailendrasinh Zala)

PATOTSAV-PARAYAN IN RAMPARA TEMPLE

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Swami Narayanprasaddasji of Muli Temple, beautiful Katha-Parayan were organized on the occasion of Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Rampara. Shastri Swami Hariomprakashdasji of Jetalpur Vadi and Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji (Mansa Mahant) were the spokesperson of Parayan. A large number

of Haribhaktas had availed the benefit of Kathamrit. On the concluding day of Parayan, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and had blessed the whole village. On the last day, all the people of the village were given Prasad. (Bhakti Keshavdas)

SATSANG SHIBIR, AHMEDABAD

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, from 20/11/2009 to 24/11/2009, Five Day Satsang Shibir was organized in the premises of one school in Drive-in area of Ahmedabad. Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadas was the spokesperson on this occasion. On this occasion, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed all the participants of the Shibir. H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop

Gadiwala, H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala had also graced the occasion and had granted to the ladies devotees the benefit of Darshan and blessings. Shastri Swami had insisted upon cherishing ardent faith in Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev, and remaining under the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Sadhu Divyaswaroopdas had delivered a series of lectures and Sadhu Bhajanprakashdas had performed Kirtan Aaradhana during the Shibir. On this occasion, H.H. Shri Gadiwala had released Divya Satsang Shibir and the cassettees of Shree Hari in Shreenagar published and prepared by Dhrangadhra, Gurukul in the Sabha of the ladies devotees. (Amrutbhai Patel, Lakhtar)

OVERSEAS NEWS

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE, COLONIA

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and under the guidance of Swami Gyanjivandasji of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia, Tulsivivah was performed wherein Bhudev Shri Pinakin Jani, Shri Vishal Jani and Shri Pankaj Jani had got performed poojan and ritual of Vivah. Swami had beautifully explained the importance of Tulsivivah.

On Saturday-Sunday 7th and 8th November, a Satsang Shibir of the children was also organized wherein 25 children and girls had participated. Gyan Swami had beautifully narrated the traditions and rituals of Sampradaya to the children in an easy language. Understanding about Aarti of the Lord, Nitya-Niyam, Pooja-Path, Tilak, Chandlo, Kanthi etc. was also furnished to the participants of Shibir. In the 1st week of November, Free Medical Camp was organized by SEWA wherein Dr. Raghuvanshi, Dr. Daftari, Rohini Navlekar and Raksha Patel had rendered services of Check up and had offered the medicines to the needy. (Pravinbhai Shah)

WASHINGTON, D.C.

On Saturday, 14th November in the evening from 4.30 to 9.30, a Satsang Sabha was organized in Paris Hall in Merryland. The Sabha began with a Kirtan and thereafter, Bhajan, Kirtan, Dhoon, Nitya Niyam and Thaal-Aarti were performed. Shastri Dharmkishordasji from Hyustan had explained on cell phone importance of Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj and Upasana of the Almighty Lord Shreeji Maharaj. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, activity of Satsang is going on very beautifully.

(Kanubhai Patel)

ISSO, SEWA

Various types of health related services through Health Fairs and Continuity Health Clinics are rendered by our ISSO, SEWA in abroad. During the

last quarter of the year 2009, various types of such health related activities have been undertaken by ISSO SEWA as under:

Event: Flu Vaccination Health Fair – Colonia, New Jersey

Date: October 31, 2009 and November 7, 2009

Services: 45 vaccinations administered to the local community at the ISSO Seva Health Clinics in Colonia, New Jersey.

Event: Flu Vaccination Health Fair – Strongsville, Ohio

Date: October 31, 2009 and November 1, 2009

Services: * ISSO Seva and local volunteers of Strongsville united together to provide high quality preventive care in a time effective manner during the 2009-2010 Session.

* 76 Influenza vaccinations administered to the local community

Event: Preventive Screening Health Fair – Lowell, Massachusetts

Date: October 10, 17 & 18, 2009

Services:

- A total of 105 patients participated in oral cancer prevention, hypertension screening, diabetes prevention, and vaccine immunizations.

- 65 Influenza vaccinations administered to the local community

- 8 glucometers with testing strips were given for free to newly diagnosed diabetic participants.

- 5 pneumonia (Pnevnar) vaccinations given to high risk individuals.

- 86 participants underwent oral cancer screening.

Event: Flu Vaccination Health Fair – Pontiac, Michigan

Date: October 18, 2009

Services: 42 vaccines administered to community members who have weakened immune

systems, chronic heart, lung, kidney and metabolic diseases.

Event: Flu Vaccination Health Fair – Houston, Texas

Date: October 4 & 18, 2009

Services:

- 100 vaccinations administered to high risk groups recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event: Continuity Health Clinics

Venue: Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Strongsville, 13354, Pearl Road, Strongsville, OH 44136

Date: Starting December 6, 2009 Sunday, First Sunday of Every Month

Time: 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Services:

- Free Adult Physical Examinations
- Free Consultation Services of Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists & Health Care Professionals
- Free Diagnostic, Screening & Preventive Education

Event: Continuity Health Clinics

Venue: Shree Swaminarayan Temple, 1705 Middlesex Street, Lowell, MA - 01852

Date: Starting December 12, 2009, Once a Month

Time: 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Services:

- Free Adult Physical Examinations
- Free Consultation Services of Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacists & Health Care Professionals
- Free Diagnostic, Screening & Preventive Education.

PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK 'THAKORJINI SEVARITI'

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a book entitled '*Thakorjini Sevariti*' is written by the devotee Shri Gordhanbhai Sitapara (writer of articles of our '*Shree Swaminarayan*' magazine). While writing this book the devotee Shri Gordhanbhai has taken into consideration the directions of Shreeji Maharaj as described in '*Shiksha Patri*' and he has also consulted and obtained the advice and suggestions of our saints and *Brahmcharis*. In the book, wonderful tradition of *Sevariti* of Shree Vitthalnathji of Vaishnav Sampradaya is also described. With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, this book would be offered as gift to all *Poojaris* performing *pooja* of Thakorji in our temples and also of Mahant Swamis of all our temples. This book would prove to be a valuable guide for the young *Poojaris* of the new generation.

- Mahant Swami

AKSHARVAAS

Vadtal— Saint and Brahmnishta Sadguru Shri Krishnajibandasji Swami (Athanawala) of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadtal passed away to Akshardham (01-12-2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari. With this there has been great loss of a Brahmnishta Saint in Vadtal, Shree Laxminarayandev Desh.

Mumbai— Devotee Shri Jyotiben Jamnadasbhai Gautami passed away to divine abode of God (08-10-2009) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Timba (Muli Desh)— Devotee Shri Govindbhai Ramabhai Gohel passed away to Akshardham (18-12-2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Leicester (U.K.) - Mother of devotee Shri Tarunbhai Farsurambhai Trivedi, Devotee Shri Narmadaben Farsurambhai Trivedi (Pijwala) passed away to divine abode of God (23-11-2009) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Leicester (U.K.) – Father of the Devotee Shri Ratilalbhai and Naranbhai, devotee Shri Rudabhai Ramjibhai Hirani (Vadasarwala) passed away to Akshardham (08-02-2009) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

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1. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing invocation *aarti* of the idol images in new temple, Lunawada. 2. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performing *aarti* of Thakorji in Lunawada temple. 3. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lali Maharaj granting *Darshan* to the devotees in *Sabha* organized in Lunawada, temple. 4. Spokesperson of *Katha* Shri Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji in Detroj temple in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Nana P.P. Swami conducting *Sabha*. 5. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Shakotsav* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar. 6. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the saints granting *Darshan* in *Shobhayatra* in Laloda (Idar Desh) 7. *Kirtan Bhakti Sandhya* Programme on the day of eclipse on 31st December 2009 in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad.



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji performing *Shakotsav* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat amongst thousands of devotees.



H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performing *Abhishek* of Shree Hari Krishna Maharaj alongwith Mahant Swami of Bhuj temple and Shastri Swami Hari Krishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple and Dev Swami and saints and on the occasion of *Dasabdi Mahotsav* of East Africa Satsang Samaj Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nairobi.