

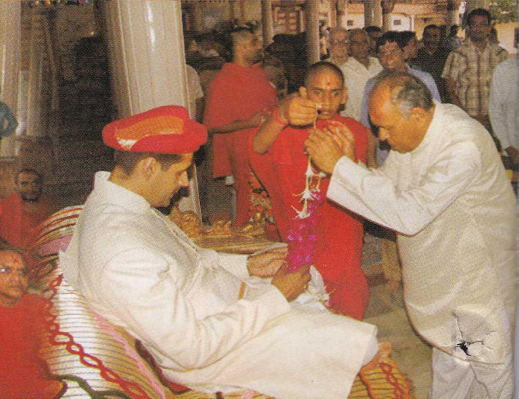
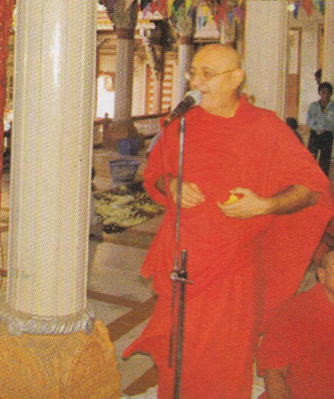
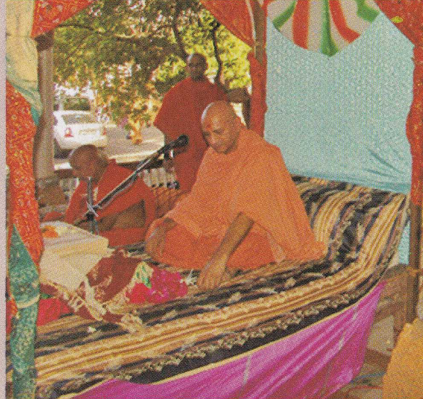
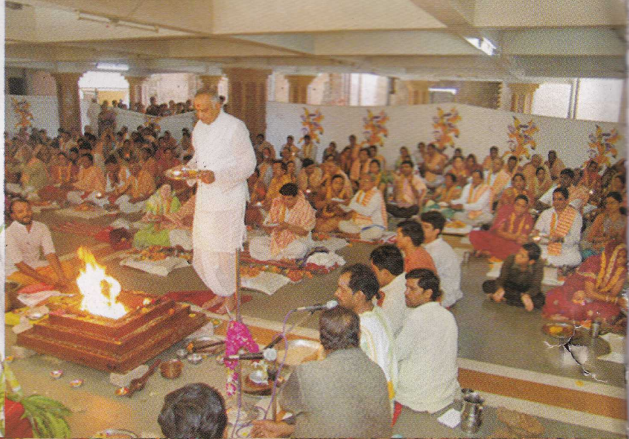
SHREE

June-2010 Price Rs. 5/-

SWAMINARAYAN



**Divine Darshan of the
Lord Shree Narnarayandev
in Chandan Vagha.**



(1) Himalaya Darshan in Ahmedabad temple during pious Adhik Maas. (2) Group Mahapooja in Ahmedabad temple in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. (3) Shastri Swami Nirgundasaji, the spokesperson of *Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah* in Ahmedabad temple during pious *Adhik Maas* and Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasaji addressing the devotees.. (4) The host of the Parayan and devotee Ishwarbhai Prabhudas Pate family performing poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. (5) Leading Satsangi of Naranpura and industrialist devotee Ghanshyambhai (Fuva) and Shri Natubhai availing the benefit of Parayan (night) of Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasaji organized in Naranpura (TERF School) in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. (6) Shastri Ghanshyam Swami performing Katha in village Chenpur in the pious company of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.



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

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SHREE

SWAMINARAYAN

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

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June-2010

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श्रीश्री

EDITORIAL

Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan is the Creator and Master of this whole universe. Without His wish, not a leaf-can move an inch from its place. This Almighty Lord is our God and all of us worship Him ardently with utmost faith. In a period of about 225 years, we find that, Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya established by the Lord has spread in all the corners of the world and we find our devotees worshipping Him everywhere, in every country. We read minimum five shlokas of 'Shisha Patri' in our daily poojan-archan. This keeps our mind filled with this Shloka throughout the day. We hesitate while doing anything wrong. A little booklet of called 'Shiksha Patri' is really wonderful in teaching us moral lessons. It has the capacity to transform the whole life. Little, tiny shlokas are very compact and yet very powerful that can move us from within. Once we start obeying all the directions contained in it, we would never see unhappiness or misery in our life.

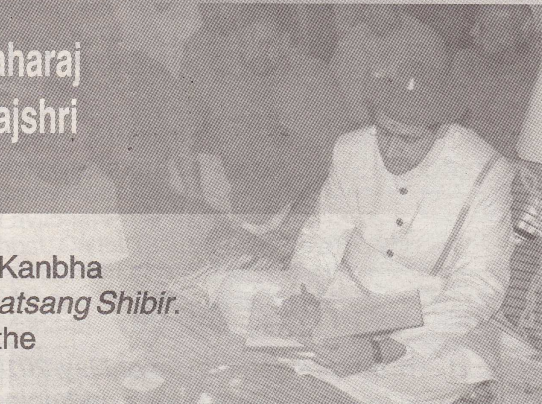
During this year, all of us witnessed sever Summer season. We also witnessed the effects of Global Warming. Still if we do not awaken ourselves, we would witness worse years in future. In the desert areas of the State of Rajasthan, mercury attained new heights upto 500 Fahrenheit. As an awakened citizen we need to be active against the elements spreading pollution. A large number of humans, animals and birds have lost their lives due to severe heat wave. This is just a beginning. At this point it is relevant to refer to *Shloka* No.32 of our pious '*Shiksha Patri*' which was written by Lord Shree Swaminarayan himself before 225 years. In this *Shloka* the Lord has directed as under:

"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)."

If the message contained in this Shloka is followed by all the people all over the world then there would not be any need of a doctor or medicine and people would be able to sleep peacefully. Therefore all Haribhaktas should follow these directions scrupulously. Let us commit ourselves to dedicate ourselves for it and inspire others for it. May the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev inspire all of us.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri (MAY-2010)



2. Graced Narnarayan Corporation near Kanbha
Graced Balasinor on the occasion of *Satsang Shibir*.
Graced Naranpura (TERF School) on the occasion of *Parayan*.
3. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple,
Naranghat on the occasion of *Patotsav* during pious *Adhik Maas*.
Graced the house of a devotee at village Mansa.
4. Graced the village Kundal on the occasion of *Parayan*.
- 5-6 Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jeragadh (Muli Desh) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
- 6-11 Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Cleveland (America) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
12. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Zundal, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Unava, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
- 14-23 Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhuj (Kachchh) on the occasion of Net temple Mahotsav-*Parayan Yagna*, Group Mahapooja and Mahabhishek-Shobhayatra of Thakorji.
24. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Hathpaliya (Panchmahal) on the occasion of invocation of the idol images.
26. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Idar, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
27. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Pethapur, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
Graced the house of the devotee Mahendrabhai Shivabhai Patel, Naroda Road.
28. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Juna Aroda (Idar Desh) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
- 28-30 Graced Narayanpar (Kachchh).
31. Graced Saijipura (Himatnagar) on the occasion of *Parayan*.
Graced the village Ghatlodiya.

For 24 hour live Darshan of Shree Narnarayandev
www.swaminarayan.in

Time (India) of Aarti : Mangala Aarti : 5.30 hours • Shangaar Aarti : 8.05 hours •
Rajbhog Aarti : 10.10 hours • Sandhya Aarti : 19.15 hours • Sayan Aarti : 20.30 hours

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri
Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 36

Contd... (from previous issue of May-2010)
One shall never perform duties pertaining to one's social affairs without careful consideration, Where as duties pertaining to Dharma shall be performed immediately. Those who are learned shall impart their knowledge to others and shall always associate with saintly persons.

In this way Shatanand explains the various Vidhyas, their greatness and the fruits of teaching others the great Vidhyas. Now, Shatanand explains the worthy teachers and worthy students of such Brahmvidhya. Manusmriti explains the best type of teacher: 'One should study under the guidance of either an Acharya's son, a servant of God, one who is knowledgeable, one who obeys Dharma, who is pure, trustworthy, able, competent, who donates their wealth to good causes and a Sadhu.'

Yagnavalkya further adds, 'Those who are not faithless nor treacherous, who are compassionate, understand the Shastras, who has a good memory, who are of great intellect, who is level minded, who looks upon the positive qualities always and does not have a tendency to find fault with others, who promotes the trust as taught by Shastras, who is always ready to serve others and who is a friend to all, these are qualities of a worthy teacher.'

Not all are worthy of the knowledge of the supreme though, and so Shatanand now explains who should be taught such knowledge. First and foremost, a Naishtik Brahmchari is worthy of such knowledge and

so should be taught, as explained by **Bhavishya Purana's Daanakhanda**. Secondly, only those who are virtuous and disciplined should be taught. Rigorous testing should take place initially to find out whether the student has the ability and is mentally competent. **Shruti** and **Smriti** explain a situation where Vidhya (in form) went to Brahmins for shelter and said, 'Save me! I (Vidhya) am your very form and therefore I plead that you do not abuse me. Please do not give me away to those who envy and anger, not to those who are undisciplined and who do not adhere to *Vratas* (penance). Only then shall I become strong and powerful.'

Vrudh Chanakya says, 'How can those who teach to unfaithful and bad disciples ever achieve satisfaction and bliss.' **Lagu Charnakya** says, 'It is better to die with such knowledge than to teach it to some bad natured fool of a disciple, as such a person is an enemy to all.' Therefore by teaching Vedic knowledge to a corrupt and unrighteous person, is destructive. A student who displays the right manner, temperament, discipline, faith, ability etc. should be sought and taught the knowledge of the Vedas. Such knowledge in the hands of others is futile and unproductive.

Now Shatanand sings 'Sant Mahima' and concludes this Sholoka of Sahajanand Swami. **Sangoanvaham Sataam** – to associate always (or daily as implied by Anvaham) with a Sant or Sadhu. Vishnu Dharmotar explains the qualities of such a saint, 'Who follows *Svadharma* (personal duty), a *Bhakta* (disciple) of Lord Vishnu, who controls his sense objects and who is absorbed within his soul (*Atmanishta*), such a person is considered a Sant.' Shatanand says that one should associate with such saints, performing *Darshan* of (touching their feet), *Vandana* of (bowing before), *Poojan* of (to revere through respect) and *Vakyodhaaran* of (seek their blessings by obeying their command). Such *Samagam* (company of) saints should be sought.

Vashishta says, **Nityam Santoabhigantavya** – 'One should daily seek the company of a saint.' Shatanand then explains the greatness of *Satsang* and says that such *Satsang* is merely devotion to God – **Satsangsvyuya Bhagvabhaktihetutvaditi**

Bhaavaha, as explained by **Shrimad Bhagwat**: 'O Lord! Whenever there is destruction of morality and faith in mankind, people seek the company of a realized soul for the upliftment of the self. The company of such a saint instills *Bhakti* in mankind, rejuvenating purity and morality in the hearts of many. He is thus uplifted and freed from the bondages of *Sansaar* (worldly life).

'Those who listen with their hearts and ears to the spiritual discourses from the mouth of a *Sant*, open themselves a path to salvation through their faith and devotion to God. Such is the greatness of *Satsang*. What are wealthy and a kingdom in comparison to the company of a *Satpurusha*? Such company is simply salvation for thee. If company of a *Sant* is enough to purify one's household, then what can be said about the *Darshan*, touch, the water used to cleanse the feet of such a *Satpurusha*, or even offerings of a place to reside?'

Shatanand explains the Murtis of the Lord are divine as they are worshipped by an *Ekantik Sant*. The *Abhishek* (bathing), *Poojan* and *Pratishta* (Installation) by a *Satpurusha* of a *Murti* made from Stone or Clay makes it divine. Similarly, places of pilgrimage are divine as saints have walked upon such land (often barefoot) or bathes in such waters. For these reasons, *Satsang*, which is often practiced in temples, in the proximity of God's *Murti* and at places of pilgrimage, should be performed daily. *Satsang* is for and at places of pilgrimage, should be performed daily. *Satsang* is for everybody and is a basic necessity (*Saadharan Dharma*). However, for *Grihastas* (householders) it is extremely important and relevant: **Narad** explains, 'Those householders going about their daily work should make time to serve an *Ekantik Bhakta* (devotee) or *Muni* (saint). Renouncing the company of their family, they should awaken themselves to serve such saints. They should renounce the company of those with a sinful nature and seek the company of intellectual *Satpurushas*. The company of a saint and the obeying of their every command destroy the incapacities of the mind and free them from repeated births and deaths, bringing salvation to the masses.

'Just as food nourishes and maintains a person, God alone is the deliver of salvation to those in pain. *Dharma* is the only means to

wealth after death. Similarly, the only means of refuge is a *Sant*. Just as the sunlight gives vision to the eyes, a *Sant* gives the vision of supreme knowledge.' For this reason – **Devta Bandhavaha Santaha Santa Atmahameva Cha** – a *Sant* is a God, a friend and a great soul/being.

'O my Lord! Those who seek the company of selfish and cruel people are forgotten in this world. They are uncelebrated by even their children, friends, wife etc. those who have never been fortunate enough to be cleansed by the dust from the feet of a *Sadhu-Purusha* have never been able to truly realize God and serve thee.'

Nitishatak's Bhartruhari says, 'That which demolishes the barriers of intellect, which instills truth in speech, teaches a path of respect, destroys sin, brings about super consciousness and that which brings fame and renown everywhere; such is *Satsang*. What can't such *Satsang* achieve? Similar message is given by **Jaganath Pandit in Rasgangadhar**, adding that a *Sant* brings auspiciousness to all.

Shatanand finally explains that the commandment is to be always obeyed, as such faith and respect brings peace to all, overcoming all difficulties. 'Those who wish for peace and tranquility should listen to the sweet nectar words of a *Satpurusha*. By following implicitly the teachings and bear them whole heartedly, one is never again troubled by misery and misfortune.

Shankracharya in his **Prashnotarmala** explains: **Prarnadapi Ko Rakshyaha Sviyo Dharmascha Sadhusangascha** – 'What are the only things worth saving in life? *Dharma* and association with *Sadhapurusha*.' In this way Shatanand *Muni* has with great effort and length explained *Sant Mahima*. Such a subject is so wide that a book could be written solely on that topic but *Swami* here has done extremely well to sing such glory in a short space.

Note that this *Shloka*, as well as many in this *Shikshapatri* are not necessarily religious. They are to guide a person so that they may enjoy a better trouble free life. Indeed this is what religion is truly all about, but it is through our ignorance that we have not been able to recognize this. *Sant Mahima* is further glorified in the *Vishesh Dharmas*.

Importance of Shri Narnarayandev

- Shastri Swami Divyaprakashdasji Guru Mahant
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ahmedabad)



Bharatkhand is a huge piece of land on this earth. It is known as 'Ajanabhikhand' and is considered to be the best of nine Khandas of this earth. Due to great spiritual heritage of the great king Bharat- name of this Khand is given as Bharatkhand. Bharatkhand is the land of incarnations of the Almighty God and the great saints. Who is the king of this Bharatkhand which has its own grandeur- the king is Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev. There have been incarnations of this great Almighty Lord. They are introduced differently in various scriptures.

Though Nar and Narayan appear different outwardly but spiritually they are not different from each other. Both of them are one and the same.

“છો તો એકને દિસો છો દોય,

તેનો ભેદ જાણે જન કોય.”

“Oh Almighty Lord! You are one and yet you grant Darshan in two different forms. No one can unfold this mystery or only a few can recognize this mystery.”

When Narayandev is bowed down then in Sanskrit language – singular person is

used such as '*Narnarayan Namah*'. Laxmi and Narayan are two different forms and therefore plural is used. Though 'Nar and Narayan are two different forms and it is great *Leela* of the Almighty Lord. It is the desire of Almighty Lord and therefore they appear different. Lord Shree Narnarayan has incarnated on this earth innumerable times. Here Nar means Arjun is perceived only in certain circumstances (Shiksha Patri Shloka-110). Someone may believe that like Badrikashram- Nar of NarNarayandev is Arjun. But this is not true. One should understand the meaning of the scriptures. Just as Lord Krishna incarnated on this earth and with His desire only, Pradurbhav of Nar was made possible in Arjun. And this is clearly stated in Shloka-110 of '*Shiksha-Patri*' as under:

જ્ઞેવોઽર્જુનેન યુક્તૌઽસૌ નરનારાયણામિઃ ।

બલભદ્રાદિ યોગેન તતત્રામોઘ્યતે સ ચ ॥

When Arjun and Krishna are together then it is Narnarayandev and when Radha and Krishna are together then it is Laxminarayandev. This is accepted even in the great epic '*Mahabharat*':

અર્જુનસ્તુ નરાવેશ શ્રીકૃષ્ણસ્તુ ભગવાન સ્વયમ ।

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Satsangis forwarding photographs and news for our magazine are requested that, news may be drafted to the pointed, precisely and in a concise manner and in legible writing. News should not be drafted in unnecessary lengthy and verbose language. They are also requested to send the News and Photographs in time so that it reaches to our office latest by 20th of the month. News received after 20th of the month will be published in the next issue of the magazine, which may please be noted.

Divine Blessings of Shree Hari

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

An elder member of the family keeps on guiding his family so that all the members of his family may always remain happy. When the last day of his life comes, all the members of his family throng around him and seek his guidance and request him to say a few but very valuable words of advice. When he passes away to Akshardham, the members of his family remember the invaluable advice for the rest of their life and cherish it time and again.

In our Sampradaya, innumerable number of devotees and saints believe Lord Shree Swaminarayan as the Almighty Lord. During his incarnation on this earth, Sahjanand Swami told Vachanamrit to the devotees in many Sabhas. But every devotee should think as to what was the last and relevant Vachanamrit for him? Because if they are last words of Vachanamrit for him then they must be very meaningful and useful for him.

When we come to the last but very significant Vachnamrits of Shree Hari then through the pen of Shri Shatanand Muni in 'Satsangi Jivan' scripture, Shree Hari says that: "On this earth, I am here. In Vadtal I am in the form of Laxminarayan and in Ahmedabad in the form of Narnarayan. In Gadhpur I am in the form of Gopinath. There is no difference between me and all my these forms. Rest assured that, I am always there on this earth. Those who perform poojan and Bhakti of my idol images, they get my divine Darshan. Rendering services to these idol images should be considered as rendering services to me only. Similarly I have established Ayodhyaprasadji and Raghuvirji- as your Guru (Acharya). All of you must respect and worship them and all of you must



remain and behave under the directions of '**Shiksha Patri**'."

Even in 'Satsangibhushan' scripture, Sadguru Brahmchari Shri Vasudevanand has narrated Shree Hari saying: "I am the God of all gods and I have come to this Earth for emancipation for all of you. I shall remain on this earth forever. In Vadtal, in Ahmedabad, in Gadhpur- there is no difference in me and in my various forms at these places. Worship me with ardent faith and devotion. Respect your Acharya and worship them as you worship me."

In '**Shree Harikrishna Leelamrit**' scripture, Sadguru Shri Mahanubhavanand Swami narrates Shree Hari saying, "You will not be able to perceive me in my present human form as I keep on moving. I will grant Darshan when you will remember me. Moreover, I am present in the idol images of Narnarayan, Laxminarayan, Gopinath etc. which I myself have invoked and installed. Yet I am more in Narnarayan, due to curse of Muni Durvasa I am here on this earth as Narnarayan. Therefore, those devotees who will worship me and perform pooja and offer the gifts, I shall accept all of them. I will accept Thal, when

offered to me. Narrate and share your woes and miseries in front of Narnarayan, I will help you. Both Acharyas of our Two Gadis are our Form only. Therefore all the devotees should obey their directions scrupulously and faithfully. Their directions should never be disobeyed." Furthermore Shree Hari has stated in this great scripture, "In order to protect all types of offerings which are made before the idols of the deities, I have established two seats of Acharyas of both desh. Furthermore, I have also made necessary arrangements for their livelihood. Every devotee should offer fifty paisa (at present five rupees) per annum for livelihood of Acharyas. Like the Universe, I have made all the arrangements in Sampradaya".

Sadguru Prasadananand Swami narrates Shree Hari saying, "In Auddhvi Sampradaya two ways are suggested. Those who shall keep their faith and trust in either of these ways, they shall be happy and would get emancipation and a place in Akshardham. Besides four Sampradaya, we have established Uddhav Sampradaya which is above all of them. We have got constructed great temples at various places in both Desh and we have established two Gadi of Acharyas for both Desh. It is my last direction that, all devotees should worship form of Acharyas at their home considering them as our form only."

It is very difficult to refer to all the scriptures here but the essence of all the scriptures is that, in His last direction Shree Hari has talked about the importance of Two Gadi, Two Acharyas and Shiksha-Patri. Those devotees who believe that they are the devotees of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya, they should ask one question to themselves. Whether they remain under the directions of 'Shiksha-Patri'? it is not sufficient that we have obtained Diksha from Dharmvanshi

Acharya Maharaj. We must also remain under his direction and we should cherish ardent faith and worship in Acharya.

There is no gain and result in doing something new in our Sampradaya for which there are no directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. We should overcome and win over all our inner enemies. Administration of great nine temples, which are established by Shree Hari himself, is entrusted with Acharya who is also established by Shree Hari himself. Therefore, we should render our services for smooth administration of these temples while remaining strictly under the directions of Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj. Shree Hari is present in the six scriptures, in Acharya, in deities and in 'Shiksha Patri'.

Shree Hari has made all the arrangements in our Sampradaya and therefore all of us should render our services under auspices of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj only. Sometimes Grihasthis appear more intelligent than Shree Hari but ultimately they all have to repent. These people cannot see God in the deity and in Acharya and therefore they cannot get peace anywhere in this world.

Therefore ardent devotees should always perform poojan, archan and Bhakti with utmost devotion and trust and faith in Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Shreeji Maharaj has established only two Gadi- one at Ahmedabad and another at Vadatal. There is no other better shelter for any devotee on this earth. Therefore all the devotees should have ardent faith and should remain under the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj as Acharya on Narnarayandev Desh Gadi at Ahmedabad and H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharaj as Acharya on Laxminarayandev Desh Gadi at Vadatal.

Gangama- Epitome of Service

- Prof. Mahadev Dhoriyani (Rajkot)

Heart of a mother is a perennial stream of love. There is sheer love and affection. It is Vaikunth. There is heaven in the lap of mother. Love of a mother is unique and it is beyond any comparison on this earth. There is no any better shelter and consolation than lap of a mother. It is rightly stated that, one mother is like one hundred teachers. Mother is like a great shady tree. It is nectar of love. Therefore, it is rightly stated:

“હાડહાડમાં હેત ભર્યું, જેને વેણ વેણ વરદાન;
દેખ, ઘરેઘર એજ બિરાજે, ભૂતળમાં ભગવાન !”

● ● ●

“ ‘મા’ કંટક વગરનો બાગ, જાણે પંખીએ છેડેલો રાગ.”

● ● ●

“ ‘મા’ પાનખર વગરની વસંત, મમતાનો સાગર અનંત.”

There was only one mother in our Sampradaya whom Sahjanand Swami addressed as ‘mother’. She was no one else than Gangama. Ganga is a holy name in India. It is also a pious river which absolves off the sins of all the people. But Gangama of Jetalpur was unique. She is very famous in our Sampradaya because Maharaj used to call her ‘Gangama’ or ‘Ma’. And therefore all the saints and Haribhaktas also used to call her as ‘mother’. Gangama belonged to Jetalpur, situated at a distance of fifteen kilometers from Ahmedabad. By caste she was Nagar Brahmin. During those time Atmanand Swami, his disciple Ramanand Swami and his disciple was Sahjanand Swami. Gangama was disciple of both Atmanand

Swami and Ramanand Swami.

Whenever Shreeji Maharaj would grace Jetalpur, then he would invariably grace the house of his mother Gangama!!! Whenever Ramanand Swami would visit Jetalpur, he would also come to the residence of Gangama. She cherished ardent devotion towards Ramanand Swami and therefore, when Ramanand Swami passed away to Akshardham, she renounced the salt in her meals.

Once Shreeji Maharaj conducted a Sabha in Ambabai Chowk and Gangama came there to perform Darshan. Maharaj asked to accept the meals, as Ramanand Swami was present in the Sabha in the form of divine spirit; but Gangama did not believe. Then Maharaj granted her Divine Darshan in as Ramanand Swami and thereafter Gangama cherished ardent faith in Shreeji Maharaj. Once Ramanand Swami granted her Darshan in her dream and informed her that Sahjanand Swami is no one else but incarnation of the Almighty Lord himself. He is the Lord of Akshardham and a great means to obtain emancipation in human life. Therefore she should grab this opportunity and secure emancipation of her life.

Since then Gangama always remained under the directions of Shreeji Maharaj. Whenever Maharaj would grace Jetalpur, Gangama used to prepare delicious meals and offer to Maharaj. Maharaj also liked the meals prepared by Gangama and used to relish the meals very much.

For Nitya-Darshan of following temples log on to:

Jetalpur : www.jetalpurdarshan.com

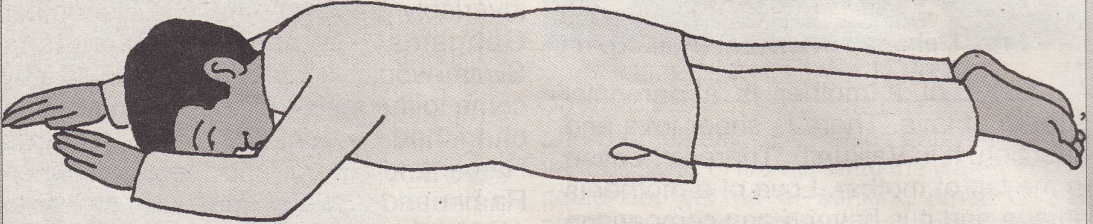
Mahesana : www.mahesanaadarshan.com

Chhapaiya : www.chhapaiya.com

Torda : www.gopallalji.com

Why Shastang Dandvat Pranam?

- N.C. Chaudhari (Balwa)



In Indian culture, we have got certain beliefs and taboos for elevation of human life as a boon from the Almighty Lord. If we try to understand the spiritual tradition from the scientific angle then physical and mental benefits are hidden behind them. In shloka-78 of '**Shiksha-Patri**', Shreeji Maharaj has stated:

**"Shastangpranascheti Niyama
Uttamamataha |**

**Etesvekatmo Bhakya Dhararniyo
Visheshataha"**

One should lay down on the earth completely while performing *Pranam*. It should be like a stick lying on the earth.

Shreeji Maharaj has revived this great tradition. It brings humility in human beings. His pride is removed and he starts cherishing the feeling of sacrifice and offering. Therefore it is directed to all *Satsangis* in our *Sampradaya* that :-

"વિશ્વેશ છો સકલ વિશ્વતણા વિધાતા"

ત્રાતા તમે સકલ મંગલ શાંતિ દાતા,

માટે તમારું કરૂણાનિધિ સત્યનામ

સાષ્ટાંગ નાથ તમને કરું હું પ્રણામ

Prayer: **"Oh, Almighty Lord of the whole Universe! God of all gods and goddesses. Oh Lord! The granter of happiness and peace in life. Oh merciful and truthful, I bow down at your lotus like feet."**

**"અજ્ઞાનપાસ કરૂણા કરી કાપી
નાખો"**

નિત્યે પ્રભુ તવ પદે મમવૃત્તિ રાખો

ભક્તોનું પાલન કરો પ્રભુ સર્વયામ

સાષ્ટાંગ નાથ તમને કરું હું પ્રણામ

Prayer : **"Oh, the Merciful Lord, please remove our darkness of ignorance and light the lamp of knowledge in our life. May minds of all of us ever remain at your lotus like feet. Oh Lord Shree Swaminarayan, protect us from all directions."**

So let us understand the real meaning and purpose behind this great tradition of *Shastang Dandvat Pranam* of our *Sampradaya* and imbibe it in our life.

Note:

While requesting for changes in address members of the Magazine are requested to invariably mention their Grahak No. and Pin Code Number of their new address. Without Grahak Number, request for change in address will not be entertained. It is also essential to mention pin code number of the area of the new address.

Besides 'Divya Sankalp'

- Atul Bhanuprasad Pothiwala (New Jersey-America)

'Sankalp' is really wonderful word in Gujarati lexicon. This Sankalp can be good as well as bad!!! Many desires and wishes of the devotees have been fulfilled by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and have granted realization to the devotees about the divine presence of Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. After such miracles, many people join our Sampradaya and become ardent devotees, too.

Every Sankalp, which is associated with the Almighty Shreeji Maharaj, leads all of us towards a noble path. Things which are used by Shreeji Maharaj are not merely inanimate things because while performing Darshan of such divine Things we get tremendous peace and tranquility within ourselves. Any person, who comes in contact with Almighty Lord or any of His Things of Prasadi, he certainly gets emancipation in his life. There is no limit of spiritual powers of Shree Sahajanand Swami. Even foot prints of His Charanarvind. The real intention of Shreeji Maharaj behind granting footprints to the devotees and saints was their welfare and to grant them emancipation. There was a noble feeling of 'Sarvajiv Hitavah'.

6th Form of Shreeji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadj Maharaj has cherished the noble concept of 'Shree Swaminarayan Museum'. This Museum would be unique and a kind of its own because it would contain all the Things of Prasadi which were once used by Shreeji Maharaj himself. These things are never going to be reproduced again. All such Things of Prasadi have been preserved in our Dharmvanshi Acharya Tradition. These things are original and therefore they are very pious and divine in nature. These things are tested by time and historical facts and therefore they are accepted by all. Now these Things of Prasadi are going to be displayed for Darshan in our 'Shree Swaminarayan Museum'.

From the clothes, foot wares, apparels, spectacles of saints, stick, turban, bones of



jaw, hair and many other innumerable things will be displayed in our museum. Now the count down of our Museum has began. As per the divine Sankalp of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, the day and time of inauguration of our Museum are also finalized. On the pious day of Fagan Sud-3 Samvat 2067 (08/03/2011) the day of 189th Patotsav of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. It is just a co-incident that, on this day Lord Shree Narnarayandev and the Lord Shree Swaminarayan would meet at divine height!!!

While cherishing this noble and divine concept, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has been very busy even after retirement. Co-operation of all the saints and devotees from Narnarayandev Desh as also from all the countries of the world is flowing continuously in realization of this divine concept. Many satsangi families are eager and enthusiastic to render their services in construction of this Museum. Time and again they invite our H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala, avail the benefit of Divine Darshan and render their services for the Museum just like a petal of a flower!!!

Recently from 04/03/2010 to 23/03/2010, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed pilgrimage of America for two weeks. He was also accompanied by Shri Nirgun Swami Dharmvallabh Swami from

Colonia temple, Madhav Swami from Vihokan temple, and the leading devotee of Washington D.C. Chapter devotee Shri Kanubhai M. Patel and other leading devotees and saints of various Chapters of I.S.S.O. during the hectic schedule of 18 days, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the houses of many devotees and blessed them for whatever services rendered for the museum. They tolerated much inconvenience during the pilgrimage but their motto was the welfare of the devotees and therefore ignored all such difficulties and continued with their programme of grace with great enthusiasm.

During the pilgrimage about more than ten Satsang Sabhas were also organized wherein Kirtan, Bhakti and the speeches of the learned saints were performed. Through DVD Video, all the devotees were appraised about the development of the construction work of the Museum. They were also briefed about the Things of Prasadi which are going to be displayed in the Museum, how they are going to be processed for preservation as also about the objective and purpose of this divine Shree Swaminarayan Museum. On watching this DVD, all the devotees present in the Sabhs used to stand up in awe and would rush to render their services for the Museum.

Even the young children of our devotees also did not look back and they rendered their services for the Museum from their pocket money. Dharmkul keeps on performing pilgrimage of America and has been inspiring and guiding all the devotees and saints for Satsang and this is the only motive behind such a pilgrimage. In every Sabha which was organized, speeches of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had been very inspirational and thought provoking. It was really a memorable experience to listen from H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj about the purpose of this Museum and all the details about it.

So let us render our services in this 'Shree Swaminarayan Museum Year' and make our life worth a devotee and satsangi. Let us contribute towards the realization of this divine Sankalp of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

For Sea-mail Members of Magazine

Following Haribhatkas, who are sea-mail members of our magazine since long, are informed that Indian Postal Department has stopped Sea-mail Service. However, with the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj they are sent the issue of the magazine through Air-mail, which is very costly. They are therefore, requested to become air-mail life members with the subscription of Rs.10,000/- so that their family can continue to receive all the issues of the magazine through air-mail

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Grand Path of Freedom from Miseries shown by Shreeji Maharaj

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt (Bhuj)

Ships do not sail at the same speed in sea. Their movement and speed are obstructed time and again by the storms and severe winds and under currents of water. Sometimes such currents may even shake and tumble the whole ship. Similarly happiness and miseries are part and parcel of life. A decade may be of happiness and a decade may be of unhappiness or miseries. A person who maintains equanimity in both the times is called a 'Sthitpragya Purush'. In the great scripture 'Bhagwat Gita', the Lord Krishna has narrated the characteristics of a person who is Sthitpragya.

During the times of woes and miseries, a person loses his direction and vision and purpose of life. He falls sick to many diseases physical as well as mental. He seeks shelter and craves for peace. Now in order to save a man from such a tumultuous situation, Shree Sahjanand Swami has shown a grand path in 'Vachanamrit'. When a person follows this path, woes and miseries cannot touch him. In 34th Vachanamrit of Gadhada First Chapter Shreeji Maharaj has stated that, *"A devotee of God creates unhappiness by disobeying God for any material thing or pleasure and he becomes happy by following the directions of God scrupulously."*

In 14th Vachanamrit of Gadhada First Chapter Shree Hari has talked about the power of Saint-Samagam during the times of woes and miseries, *"Life of a household devotee is very arduous and full of obstacles and miseries. But when he leads*

life cherishing utmost trust in Saint and keeps constant Satsang under the guidance and directions of this saint and is not moved an inch even during his most critical period then such a devotee is an Ekantik Bhakta, and all his woes and miseries are removed with the blessings of his saint."

In 61st Vachanamrit of Gadhada First Chapter, Shreeji Maharaj has stated, *"We should be happy during the times of miseries because it is a test for us as destined by Lord himself. This would bring us closer to Him and He would be happier with it."*

In his incarnation, Shree Hari has asked for two boons from his Guru Shri Ramanand Swami that all the woes and miseries of the devotees may be removed and these miseries may be tolerated by Him!!! Therefore, those persons who have sought their spiritual shelter in Shreeji Maharaj and in His Sampradaya, they would never be unhappy in their lives. Because Almighty Lord Swaminarayan has been protecting all the devotees and Haribhaktas. In 5th Vachanamrit of Jetalpur, Shreeji Maharaj has assured to remove all the miseries and unhappiness of the devotees, *"If you keep an ardent faith in us and follow our directions scrupulously then we shall protect you from all the woes and miseries provided you continue Satsang and observe all the Code of Conduct."* Thus Shreeji Maharaj has shown us grand path of freedom from miseries.

સત્સંગ બલવતિકા

SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

SADBHAV (NOBILITY) IS THE KEY TO HAPPINESS!

-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

This is a very old story. You might have read or heard it earlier. But since it is quite old you may have forgotten it. Let us refresh it and learn a lesson from it.

One Adivasi person was very generous with all the animals. Any animal of the forest would become tranquil when he would see this Adivasi person. There was sheer love and affection flowing from his eyes towards anybody and everybody. Even the wild animals would be pacified in the presence of this Adivasi person and they would never attack him.

One day this Adivasi person was going on his way. On the way he met one lion who was very much disturbed. The animal was holding one of his legs up above and could not place it on the land. When he came close to the animal and examined the sole of the leg, he found that there was a nail inside it. He immediately removed it causing a pain to the lion but for a moment only. After some time, the lion was relieved from the pain and he could walk properly.

After some time this lion was caught in a cage by the king of that area. Now there was a very strange rule in the state of this King. Any offender of law or law-breaker would be caught and thrown into the cage of a lion and that lion would kill and eat up the culprit. On one day, this Adivasi person was caught by the soldiers of the king. He was caught for the theft. The king immediately ordered to throw him into the cage of the lion. Following the directions of the king, the soldiers threw the Adivasi person into the cage of a lion. The lion was hungry and therefore there came brightness in his eye to see his prey in the

cage. But when the lion recognized the person as the Adivasi person who had helped him to take out the nail from his sole. He also reminded how greatly he was relieved from his pain by this person. Therefore the lion did not touch the Adivasi person. The persons who looked after the lion and the cage were surprised at this. They immediately rushed to the king and reported him everything. The king and his ministers thought that this person must be a magician and he must be knowing the art to control the wild animals like lion. He is useful for the state and therefore he should not be killed because in future he can be put to some useful activity. The king ordered the soldiers to bring the Adivasi person in his *Darbar*. In the *Darbar*, the king asked the reason and secret of his magic. The Adivasi person was very innocent; he did not know anything. He simply said that, he never cherished ill-feeling towards anybody even towards any animal or bird and this is the secret of this so called magic.

Friends! This is a very interesting story, isn't it? It has a message: 'Cherish generosity towards everybody.' Our Lord Shree Swaminarayan also cherished this generosity towards everybody. It is rightly said:

અતિ દયાળુ રે સ્વભાવ છે સ્વામીનો

પરદુઃખ હારી રે વારી બહુ નામીનો

કોઈને દુઃખીયો રે દેખી ન ખમાય

દયા આણી રે અતિ આકળા થાય

અન્નધન વસ્ત્ર રે આપીને દુઃખ ટાળે

કરૂણા દષ્ટિ રે દેખી વાનજ વાળે

Lord Shree Swaminarayan had love and affection towards everybody, human beings, birds and animals and even towards tiny insects. It is just because of this generosity that even the most ferocious animals like lion were also found moving freely around Shreeji Maharaj and never thought about anything violent. This was the power and influence of generosity of Shreeji Maharaj. When even the wild animals do not forget anything good which is done to them, we must not forget all good that has been granted to us by the Almighty Lord Shreeji Maharaj and we should also cherish such a generosity towards everybody.

ALWAYS BE ALERT.

- Sadhu Shrirang Maharaj (Gandhinagar)

There was a king. The king was very pious and religions. He used to render all the services to the saints and sadhus who would come to his palace. The name of this king was Parikshit. All the Brahmins, Rishis, Munis, saints and Sadhus used to bless the king very much as all of them were very much happy in his kingdom.

But there is no invitation to any accident. The King Parikshit stopped Kaliyug cutting the legs of Dharma and imprisoned him. Therefore Kaliyug bowed down at the feet of the king; he ardently requested to the king to grant him some space to live. The merciful king Parikshit granted him four place to live in i) the place where people are gambling ii) the place where people are drinking liquor iii) the place where the innocent animals are being killed and iv) the place where perverted emotions are encouraged. But Kaliyug was dissatisfied with this he asked the permission to live at the places where the gold and the wealth are being accumulated.

It is rightly said that, all the desires and wishes of a bad person should not be fulfilled. Here the king Parikshit made a mistake and granted Kaliyug's request to live at the places where the gold and the wealth are being accumulated.

Kaliyug kept this thing in his mind and decided to take revenge upon the king Parikshit. Once king Parikshit came across a diamond studded crown. It was a crown of the demon king Jarasangh. The Lord Krishna had killed this demon king and had put his crown at the bottom of the treasure as a symbol of victory. The Lord Krishna had also instructed not to hold this crown on the head as it was a crown of a demon king.

Despite knowing well about the directions of the Lord Krishna, king Parikshit was tempted to hold it upon his head. He place the crown upon his head and went for hunting in the forest. In the forest he became thirsty but did not find water anywhere around. He saw a flag at a distant place and rushed there. It was

Ashram of Shamik Rishi. The great Rishi was in the state of Samadhi and therefore he could not know the arrival of the king in the Ashram. All the disciples and his son Shringithi had gone to take a bath. When the king Parikshit did not receive any warm welcome or any gesture from the great Rishi, under the influence of the crown of a demon and also under the influence of the Kaliyug, he got angry with the Rishi and an evil idea came to his mind. He brought a dead snake from outside and threw it around the neck of the great Rishi and went away from the place. This thought to dishonour a Rishi—in the state of Samadhi—came to the king Parikshit because at that time he was under the influence of Kaliyug.

When the disciples and Shringithi returned to Ashram, they saw a dead snake lying around the neck of the great sage. Shringithi became very angry as he could not tolerate the dishonour of his great father and he cursed that whosoever has dishonoured the great Rishi, would die within seven days due to snake-biting. With the power of his Samadhi, the great Shamik Rishi came to know about anything and rebuked his son and told him that unknowingly he has cursed the great king Parikshit. But now it was of no use. Shringithi begged pardon and asked his father to punish him for this act. But he said that, the king will have to die because he had dishonoured a great Rishi. At last on seventh day the king Parikshit passed away due to biting of the great snake called Takshak snake.

This is a very old story but don't we feel that it is relevant even today. It is rightly said:

પિતાનું અપમાન સહન કરી લે તે સાચો પૂત્ર નહિ.
પતિનું અપમાન સહન કરી લે તે સાચી પત્ની નહિ.
ગુરૂનું અપમાન સહન કરી લે તે સાચો શિષ્ય નહિ.
ઈષ્ટદેવનું અપમાન સહન કરી લે તે સાચો ભક્ત નહિ.
રાષ્ટ્રનું અપમાન સહન કરી લે તે સાચો નાગરિક નહિ.

Therefore in 5th Vachanamrit of Panchala our Lord Shree Swaminarayan has said, "It is appropriate to deal with persons who speak ill about Satsang and Almighty Lord. One should behave with self-respect while dealing with such person."

FROM THE BLESSINGS OF H.H. SHRI GADIWALA

- Compiled by Kotak Varsha
Natvarlal (Ghodasar)

One should have ardent worship and faith in Almighty Lord. Dharma cannot be observed by force or by threatening. It is in fact voluntary. It comes very naturally from within. One should have an ardent desire to proceed and progress on the spiritual path. There should be real thirst in us to obtain Almighty Lord. When a child starts crying, his mother gives him many toys to play and goes to perform daily chores. When the child sees the toys he forgets his mother and starts playing with the toys; but this does not sustain for a long. Again the child is reminded of his mother and starts crying. Immediately the mother rushes to her child and takes him in her lap and kisses him with ardent love and affection.

This is equally true with our Almighty Lord. We are like His children. If we cherish genuine thirst and craving for Him, the Lord would certainly come to us. He has placed the toys around us- in the form *Maya*. Under the influence of these toys – *Maya*, we tend to forget our Mother i.e. Almighty Lord but when we again crave for Him, He would rush back to us. But there are some children, who simply cry to get more toys. They do not want their mother but then want the toys. Now this will not do in real life with Almighty Lord. We find some people running after material things and material pleasure. They roam here and there after all these things and they forget their real mother i.e. Almighty Lord.

When Almighty Lord realizes that, this person does not want me, then He would never come to me. Therefore all the devotees should ardently worship the Almighty Lord. There should be a genuine prayer from the bottom of our hearts. There is one example. There was a king. He had got prepared a huge swimming pool for his bath. Every third day, water of the swimming pool was changed so that it does not stink. But one day the swimming pool was stinking. The king orders to clean the swimming pool properly



BHAKTI-SUDHA

and completely. He also gets sprinkled various types of flavours into the water, yet he could not get rid of stinking smell of the swimming pool. When he undertakes a complete check up of the swimming pool through the experts, he finds that dead body of a dog was stuck in one of the outlets of water and because of it, the whole swimming pool was stinking. Now everything was set right and the swimming pool was filled with clean water.

Similarly, there are anger, greed, pride in ourselves. Until we get rid of them, we would not be able to crave for the Almighty Lord. Now to get rid of these evils, there is a need to have constant *Satsang*. Just like a land is dried up without the rains, a soul is dried up without *Satsang*. Without *Satsang* and pious company of Almighty Lord, a soul cannot be strengthened. Thus for inner purification, all of us need to perform *Satsang* regularly.

MERCY OF MERCIFUL

- Sankhya Yogi Kolilaba (Surendranagar)

This human soul is very selfish. When Almighty Lord grants all the things of happiness, then this soul worships Him ardently. But when there are woes and miseries all around then he forgets Almighty Lord completely. The noble souls perform *Samagam* of the saints and thereby worship the Almighty Lord. When the miseries and obstacles come, the Almighty Lord protects such ardent devotees. Every devotee is tested by the Lord. But again he cannot sustain it for a long and rush to the devotee at his rescue. The Almighty Lord is very merciful.

There is a village Kamadhiya in Saurashtra region. Once Shreeji Maharaj graced this village and sat under a *Peepal*

tree. Meanwhile a Muslim Kayabhai passed by. He was short temperament person and therefore no one would dare to speak against him. But he was a *Mumukhsu*. Shree Hari called him and performed *Satsang* with him. With the divine *Darshan* and *Satsang* with Shree Hari, the soul of the Muslim Kayabhai got transformed and he became an ardent devotee. He also became an ardent disciple of Shreeji Maharaj. He assured Shreeji Maharaj to observe all the *Nitya-Niyams* and to follow all the directions of '*Shiksha-Patri*' scrupulously. Thus, a Muslim person left his Islam religion and became an ardent devotee of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya and started performing *Bhajan*, *Kirtan* in the temple of the village.

When the king of the village heard this, he called Kayabhai and asked him to adopt again Islam religion. But Kayabhai refused saying that now he has improved his life and he would not leave his *Sampradaya*. The king got angry and ordered his soldiers to punish Kayabhai. Now the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan could not tolerate the woes and miseries of his ardent devotee and the king got sick. All the doctors were called but none of them could cure the stomachache of the king. Satsangi doctor Rupshibhai was also called. While going to the king, he saw Kayabhai on the way. Kayabhai narrated everything to him. Satsangi doctor Rupshibhai told the king that if he would allow Kayabhai to perform *Satsang* and *Bhajan* he would be cured of his stomachache. The moment Kayabhai was released, the king got cured of. In this way, Lord Shree Swaminarayan helped His ardent devotee.

“દુઃખ હરિજનનું દીલે ધરો છો,

સુખનિધિ શ્યામસહાયતા કરો છો,

તદપિ ભજન જે કરે ન ભાવે,

નહિ નરજાતિ કુમતિ તેહ કહાવે.”

Really, there is no end to the mercy of the Merciful!!!

GOD AND SAINT CAN REMOVE THE HARD LUCK

- Komalben Guru Sankhyayogi
Jayshreeben (Gadhada)

Once Sadguru Gopalanand Swami came from Gadhada to Botad and from Botad to Bhimnath and performed *Darshan* of Mahadev. From there Swami came to village Zazar and stayed in the temple of the village. When they started preparing the meals, a cook asked the reason for it. Swami said that they had brought the flour from Bhimnath and therefore he was preparing the meals. The cook brought all other grocery items and offered them to Purushanand Swami. A beautiful *Thaal* was prepared and offered to Thakorji. At night a *Satsang Sabha* was organized wherein Gopalanand Swami asked all the villagers to perform *Mala*. When the villagers started performing *Mala*, their luck was transformed and they became happy in their life. Thus, God and saint can remove all the difficulties in our life and they can also transform our bad luck into good luck.

OH MAHARAJ! PLEASE HELP US - Sankhyayogi Alpaben Guru Shilpaben (Gadhpur)

The divine souls perform *Bhakti* and *Bhajan* in the pious company of the saints, the scriptures. The worldly things cannot shake them nor they get influenced by them. By worshipping Almighty Lord, we will get eternal peace and real happiness in life. We get place in Akshardham by worshipping Almighty Lord ardently. Yet there are very few devotees who are always happy. Miseries and unhappiness certainly come in everyone's life and in such times, the Almighty Lord helps such devotees, too. Let us see it through one example.

Dedal Bhakta was RajKavi of the State of Morbi. He belonged to Charan community. With the pious company of Brahmanand Swami, he became an ardent devotee and *Satsangi*. He used to get up early in the morning perform *Snan*, *Pooja* Path and to attend his duties daily in the Darbar of the king. Many other people of the Darbar could not tolerate fame and ardent worship of Dedal Bhakta and therefore they would create many hurdles. But Dedal Bhakta would tolerate all

these things patiently, without reacting to any such hurdles.

Once Ravaji Thakore made an offer to Dedal Bhakta that if he would remove his Kanthi and Tilak, he would be offered handsome amount. But Dedal Bhakta did not accept the offer. He replied that, he has improved a lot and this is made possible just because of pious company of a great saint of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. It is human nature that, a man becomes angry when any of his desired thing does not happen. Here Ravaji Thakore also got angry and compelled Dedal Bhakta to leave the territory of State of Morbi. This Dedal Bhakta had a very big joint family; it was a matter of great worry for him where to go so suddenly. He ardently prayed to Shree Hari:

“દુઃખ હરિજનનું દીલે ધરો છો,
સુખનિધિ શ્યામસહાયતા કરો છો.”

હિમત જોઈ હરિજનની, હરિ રહે છે હાજરા હજુર,
ભાંગે મને ભક્તિ કરે, તેથી શ્રીહરિ રહે છે દૂર.

At night Shreeji Maharaj granted Darshan to Shri Modji Darbar of Maliya and directed him to send the carts to receive Dedal Bhakta, who has been expelled by Ravaji Thakore from the territory of State of Morbi. Modji Darbar was an ardent devotee of Shreeji Maharaj. He was very much pleased when he had Darshan of Maharaj. He immediately sent the carts to receive Dedal Bhakta and his family. While Dedal Bhakta was performing the following last couplet of his ardent prayer, the carts of Modji Darbar reached there:

: કચ્છ કાફી :

મદદ કરોને મહારાજ,

હણે અસાજ મદદ કરોને મહારાજ

ગોપીનાથ ! મદદ કરો રે મહારાજ ટેક.

કંઠી અસાજ બાંધી તો કારણ

રુઠી, રવાજ રાજ, ગોપીનાથ....

અધમઉદ્ધારણ પતીત પાવન

બાંધ ગ્રહેજી લાજ ગોપીનાથ....

પારસ પરસે લોહ રીયે તો

લોહજી વેદી લાજ ! ગોપીનાથ

દેદલયે દુઃખ દૂર કર્યાં તે,

મોડ રીજયો મહારાજ, ગોપીનાથ

With the help of the carts, Dedal Bhakta

reached Maliya. There Modji Darbar gave him Rs.500/- in cash, grains, horses and cows and many other animals as also the grass to feed these animals and also a residence. The people of Maliya were surprised at this because they did not know who was Dedal Bhakta.

After this incident, Shreeji Maharaj granted Darshan to Ravaji Thakore and removed his ignorance and preached him the scriptures. The next morning, Ravaji Thakore sent two persons with a message for Dedal Bhakta, which narrated that his remuneration have been doubled. This fact is narrated well by the Kaviraj in the following Duha:

“ગામદામથી નહ ગળ્યો, દેદલ તોળો દલ,

કંઠી કારણ કોપિયો, રાજા વે રવમલ..... ૧

હરિ કારણ હદપાર હુવો, કંઠી તોડન કાજ,

સુપને સહજાનંદ કહે, ભૂત ગ્રહી લે ભજ..... ૨

પ્રભાતે કવિ પ્રેમથી, દેદલભક્ત દહીવાણ,

સમર્થો સહજાનંદ શરણ, ભૂપ મોડ કુલભાણ..... ૩

સહજાનંદની સોનથી, રીજયો ફિર રવમાલ,

દેદલભક્તને ધન દઈ, પાસ રાખ્યો પ્રતિપાળ..... ૪”

In this way, Shreeji Maharaj helped his ardent devotee during his critical time. Really great are Dedal Bhakta, Modji Darbar and also Ravaji Thakore, who at last realized his mistake and compensated for it by calling back Dedal Bhakta with all respect.

SAINT SAMAGAM

- Nimisha K. (Methan)

It is essential to have *Bhakti* to cross the ocean of this world and Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan has taught us well how to cross this ocean safely. Our saints are our sailors who help us to cross this ocean without any difficulties.

Our Almighty and Merciful Lord Shree Swaminarayan has granted us a divine gift of the saints. These saints have got only one goal i.e. to perform *Bhakti* and to get it performed from others. Therefore all of us should always perform *samagam* of the saints. In the pious company of these saints, our ignorance is removed and we are enlightened with the lamp of knowledge which dispels the darkness of ignorance.

There is one very interesting example.

Four thieves were living in one village. At night they went for theft in the palace of the king. One of the thieves got injured by a nail in his sole and he could not walk anymore. The other three thieves left him there and went ahead in their mission. The injured thief heard a kind of music nearby and he went there. He found that *Satsang* was going on. When *Katha* was completed all the devotees went away but the thief remained there. He requested the saint to allow him for a night stay as he could not walk due to his injured leg. The merciful and innocent saint granted him the permission.

Here the king came to know about the theft in his palace. He ordered his soldiers to go and catch all the four thieves. All the thieves were brought in the *Darbar* of the king. The King punished them all. Now the fourth and injured thief ardently requested that, he was not involved in the theft; but who would listen to him? The saint came to know about this. He knew that the injured person was not involved in the theft as he was with him for the whole night. When the saint told the king everything, the king released the injured thief. Now the thief had not gone to the temple of the saint for any worship or for any good reason. Yet he was saved from the punishment. His life was saved. Similarly if

we stay with the saints for *Bhakti* and *Katha* and rendering our service then we would also be saved and we would also get emancipation.

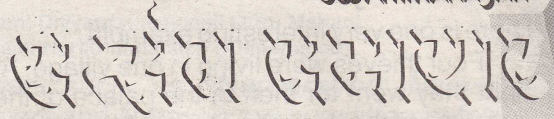
There was a crooked soul. He was taken to *Yamraja*- the Death King. He was a sinner and had committed innumerable sins in his life. However, he had noble deed of only one moment. Therefore to give justice to him, *Yamraja* asked his desire for his one noble deed. The intelligent soul requested to send him to a saint. He was sent to a saint in one temple. There this intelligent but crooked soul ardently requested the saint to save him from *Yamraja*. The saint asked him not to worry. After some time *aarti* was performed and pious water was sprinkled everywhere. Almighty God and *Yamraja* came at the same moment. The moment *Yamraja* tried to take the soul from the temple, the Almighty God stopped *Yamraja* and asked him that since the soul was under His shelter he cannot be taken away.

The message from this little story is that, when a noble deed of even a moment can save a crooked soul, then we can certainly get emancipation while remaining in constant company and *Samagam* of the saints which we must ensure through our *Bhakti* and our services.

FOR INFORMATION OF WHOLE SATSANG

It is for information of whole *Satsang* that Sankhya Yogi Ranjanben (Suratwala), Sankhya Yogi Rekhaben, Sankhya Yogi Asmitaben, Sankhya Yogi Rasilaben staying in Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies), Balasinor and Sankhya Yogi Bhaktiba and Sankhya Yogi Anitaba [both staying presently at Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies) Prantij] were not behaving as per the Code of Conduct of our Sampradaya. They were found engaged in quarreling with other ladies devotees, harassing them and satisfying their own personal ego and thereby they were disobeying the directions of our Sampradaya. Therefore, under the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Gadiwala, all these six Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees have been dismissed from Shree Narnarayandev Desh which may be noted by the whole Satsang; and they may not be given shelter in any of temple with dome or Hari temple of our Sampradaya.

- Kothari Swami, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad



Shreemad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad

In the pious company of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev with the directions of H. H. Shree Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, with the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji from 30/04/2010 to 06/05/2010, Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized by the devotee Shri Ishwarbhai Prabhudas Patel (Kundalwala-Mumbai). Shastri Swami Nirgundasji was he spokesperson of Parayan and Purani Swami Dharmjivandasji performed Samhita Path. Besides the host family, large number of devotees availed the divine benefit of this Parayan. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced Katha and had performed poojan-aarti of Vyas-Pith.

Concluding ceremony of Katha-Parayan was performed on 06/05/2010 in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. On this occasion Mahant Swami and the learned saints had delivered the inspirational speeches and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the host devotee and family. The devotee Shri Ishwarbhai Prabhudas Patel family performed *poojan-archan* of *Dharmkul* and offered the gifts. (Shastri Divyaprakashdas)

Saptah Parayan (night) in Naranghat temple during pious Adhik Maas

With the directions of H. H. Shree Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, with the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and Dharmkul and with the inspiration of both Mahant Swami Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami), Saptah Parayan (nioght) of Charitra of *Dandhavya Desh Leela* was performed from 08/05/2010 to 14/05/2010.

Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Shree Sahjanand Gurukul, Koteswar) was the spokesperson of this Parayan wherein Charitra-Katha of Shreeji Maharaj was performed which was relished by a large number of devotees and Haribhaktas. On all the seven days, seven different devotees rendered their services as the hosts. Devotees and Haribhaktas and saints of Naranghat, Ranip and Nava Vadaj areas have decided that at the time of inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum they would perform '*Rajat-Tula*' of 6th, 7th and 8th Form of Shree Hari. During the *Parayan*, services of 60 to 70 kg silver were rendered. Many devotees had rendered services of the gold for '*Suvarna Tula*' of Thakorji

of Prasadi of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. During Parayan Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji etc. saints had also arrived. (Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji, Koteswar Gurukul)

Celebration of pious Adhik Maas in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranpura

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the whole Dharmkul and with the inspiration of Mahant of Naranpura temple Shastri Swami Shreeji Prakashdasji, a number of festivals were celebrated during the pious *Adhik Maas*. In connection with the inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum, Satsangijivan Saptah Parayan (night) was performed in our TERF School from 02/05/2010 to 08/05/2010. Sadguru Shastri Swami Shreeji Prakashdasji was the spokesperson of Parayan. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed poojan-archan of Vyaspiith. Devotees Vitthalbhai Ranchhodbhai Patel (Kadiwala) rendered services as the host of Parayan and the devotee Akshar Nivasi Lavjibhai Bhimdas Patel (Devpura) family was the co-host of the Parayan. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced this occasion. During this Parayan many devotees rendered their services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

Ladies devotees had also performed 12 hours *Akhand Dhoon* and *Kirtan-Bhakti* in connection with Shree Swaminarayan Museum. This occasion was graced by H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala and blessed all the ladies devotees. Devotee Arvindbhai Shivabhai Patel (Kothwala) had performed *Thaal* of all the items as narrated by Sadguru Bhumanand Swami and it was offered to Thakorji. Large number of devotees had performed divine *Darshan*.

(Poojari Rushikeshdasji)

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan at village Kundal of Prasadi

With the blessings of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and with the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of both Mahant Sadguru Devprakashdasji and Sadguru P.P. Swami (Nana) of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranpura, Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized from 29/04/2010 to 05/05/2010 at village Kundal of Prasadi.

Thedevotee Akshar Nivasi Hirabhai Tulsidas Patel and Ganga Swaroop Shantaben Hirabhai Patel family had rendered the services as the host of the Parayan which was organized during the pious Adhik Maas. Sadguru Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) was the spokesperson of Parayan. Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Mahant of Kalupur temple had also graced the occasion.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Gadiwala had graced Saptah Parayan and blessed all the devotees and Haribhaktas. (Shastri Abhayprakashdasji)

Shibir in Balasinor

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Bhandari Swami Suryaprakashdasji, and under the guidance of Shastri Vishwaswaroopdasji a Sneh-Milan Shibir was organized at village Balasinor wherein Haribhaktas of about 135 villages participated. During the Shibir 9 Blood Donation Camps, Freedom from Addiction Camp and other social activities were undertaken.

Along with H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Nana P.P. Swami from Naranghat temple, Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji and Shastri Swami Hariswaroopdasji from Vadnagar temple had arrived on this occasion. During their divine speeches, the saints stressed the importance of Shreeji Maharaj and Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed thousands of participants of this Shibir.

On this occasion, devotees of Balasinor, Lunawada, Kothamba, Kapadwanj, Ranela, Santrampur and other nearby villages had rendered their beautiful services. H.H. Shri Gadiwala had also graced this occasion. The host devotee Kachhia Bhaveshbhai Ghanshyambhai had rendered the services for stay of H.H. Shri Gadiwala and the devotee Ravishankar Punjalal family had rendered the services for stay of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Services of all the devotees were very beautiful and inspirational.

(Rakeshbhai and Prakashbhai Kachhia)

Celebration of Adhik Maas in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Haridwar and divine Kumbh Mela

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Shyamsundardasji of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Haridwar, all the festivals were celebrated

with great fervour and enthusiasm during the pious Adhik Maas. Shrimad Bhagwat Dasmskanda, Shrimad Satsangijivan, Shrimad Satsangibhusan and Shrimad Bhagwat Panchamskanda Parayan were also organized during the pious Adhik Maas. Kesar Snan, Abhishek, Annakut, Mahapooja etc. were performed to Thakorji and devotee Ranchhodhbhai Lavjibhai Patel had rendered the services as the host. On the pious day of Adhik Vaisakh Sud-15 a special Shodasopchar Abhishek, Annakut and Mahapooja of Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj was performed and the devotees Babubhai Jivabhai and Bachubhai Amin had rendered their services as the hosts. Moreover all the festivals of Janmastmi, Shivratri, Vijayadashmi etc. were celebrated. On 14/04/2010, on the occasion of last Kumbh Snan, many devotees had availed the divine benefit.

(Sadhu Vrajbhushandas, Haridwar)

Katha in Adhik Maas in Himatnagar temple

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Dhirajakhyan Katha created by Nishkulanand Swami was performed during the pious Adhik Maas in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Himatnagar. Mahant Shastri Swami Harijivandas was the spokesperson of this Katha whose divine benefit was availed by many devotees. Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji of Idar temple had also arrived on this occasion.

(Poojari Swami Ajayprakashdasji)

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan in Chenpur village

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and blessings of the whole Dharmkul, and with the inspiration of Sadguru Swami Jagatprakashdasji, and with the Sankalp of the devotee Prakashbhai Purushottamdas Naranbhai Patel, Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was organized from 20/04/2010 to 26/04/2010. Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji was the spokesperson of this Parayan. This Parayan was graced by the whole Dharmvanshi.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed all the devotees and stated that, there may be a temple in the village, Satsang may increase and strengthen in the village and the host devotee may continue to avail the divine benefit of rendering services. The host family rendered services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum and obtained the blessings of the whole Dharmkul.

(Ghanshyambhai Patel, Uvarsadwala)

Katha Parayan during pious Adhik Maas in Jivrapark Temple

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Shri Bhakta Chintamani

Katha created by Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami was organized during the pious Adhik Maas from 10/05/2010 to 16/05/2010. Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteswar Gurukul) was the spokesperson of this Katha. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced this occasion and blessed all the devotees and Haribhaktas. Everyday about more than 1500 Haribhaktas used to avail the benefit of Katha.

(Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jivrajpark)

Celebration of Patotsav in Mansa Temple

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri

Acharya Maharaj, 140th Patotsav of Thakorji was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mansa on the pious day of Vaisakh Sud-06 (19/05/2010). Akshar Nivasi Jadiben Nanalal Jansari family had rendered the services as the host of this Patotsav. On this occasion the aged Saint Jagatprakashdasji, Mahant of Ayodhya temple Dev Swami and Mahant Ghanshyam Swami of Mansa temple had delivered inspirational speeches.

MULI DESH

Development Mahotsav of village Shekhpat of Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami

With the blessings of Shri Radhakrishnadev of Mulidham and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of former Mahant Sadguru Swami Laxmiprasaddasji and Shastri Chhapaiyaprasaddasji (Mahant of Makansar temple) and also with the co-operation of Poojari Girish Bhagat, Kothari Chanubha Babu, Anopsang Babu, Abhesang Babu etc. Sodha family and the whole village and also Haribhaktas of Halar, Kachchh and Gujarat, beautiful arrangement of celebration of Development Mahotsav was made. The great saint and Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami of our Sampradaya was born in this village Shekhpat. The land of his birth place and other adjoining lands were acquired for construction of a new temple, Dharmshala, Bhojanalaya, Gaushala Yamdand Exhibition etc. on the said land. The chief donor of the construction of temple has been devotee Laxmanbhai Bhimji Raghvani family (Baldiya-Kachchh) and chief donor has been devotee Girdharlal Mohanlal Gangani family (Manamora at present Panji-Goa).

On this occasion, Vijay Stambh Yatra and Akhand Mahamantra Dhoon were performed on

15/04/2010. In the morning on 16/04/2010 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion and grand Samaiya was performed by the devotees of the village. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the temple and performed Aarti of Thakorji. Devotees Shri Girdharlal Gangani and Shri Laxmanbhai Raghvani family had availed the divine benefit of Bhoomi Poojan. The devotee Sardhara Odhavjibhai Jethalal family had rendered the services as the host of Yagna.

On this occasion Bhakt Chintamani Katha was performed by Shastri Swami Chaturbhujdasji. At night Shastri Swami Premprakashdasji performed Saint Vani. The Sabha organized on the occasion was conducted by Shastri Chhapaiyaprasaddasji. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the devotees for expeditious beginning of construction of new temple in village Shekhpat. On this occasion Laxmiprasaddasji Swami, Mahant Swami Narayanprasaddasji from Muli, J.K. Swami from Ahmedabad temple, Charadva Mahant Shastri Swami Hariprakashdasji, Aniruddh Swami, Vishwavallabhdas of Ahmedabad and Kothari Swami of Jamnagar temple and saints of Panchala had arrived on this occasion. (Poojari Girish Bhagat)

OVERSEAS NEWS

Washington (I.S.S.O.) Chapter

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, on Friday 2nd April 2010 a Satsang Sabha was organized in the evening from 7-15 to 10-15 hours wherein Katha-Varta-Kirtan-Bhakti and Nitya Niyam Thaal Aarti were performed. Besides this Prakyotsav of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj was also celebrated in the Satsang Sabha by performing poojan-archan of photo image of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

On Saturday 17th April 2010, a Satsang Sabha was organized in Paris Hall in the evening from 4-45 to 9-45 hours. Dhoon, Bhajan, Katha-Varta, reading of Vachanamrit etc. were performed. Thereafter Mahant Swami Anandjivandasji of Hyustan temple had narrated Katha of incarnation of Bhagwan Swaminarayan on mike and cellphone.

On Friday 30th April a Satsang Sabha was organized in Day's Inn Hall in the evening from 7-15 to 10-15 hours. Dhoon-Bhajan-Kirtan were

also performed in front of Thakorji. Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji from Vihokan temple had narrated *Katha* of pious *Adhik Maas* on mike and cell phone. Thereafter reading of *Vachanamrit* and *Thaal-aarti* of Thakorji were also performed. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj here *Satsang* activities are performed on regular basis. (Kanubhai Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia (America)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Ramnavmi and Shree Hari Jayanti were celebrated with great enthusiasm in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia. At 10-10 hours at night Mahant Dharmvallabhdasji had performed *Aarti* of *Shri Ramjanmotsav* and *Shri Hari Pragatyotsav*. In the *Sabha*, *Bal Leela Charitra* of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj was narrated. *Haribhaktas* of all I.S.S.O. Chapters had availed the benefit of divine *Darshan*. Poojari Swami Harinandandas had performed *Shangar Darshan* of Thakorji. On the occasion of Hanuman Jayanti aarti and Hanumanchalisa Path were also performed.

On 8th May beautiful arrangement of *Mahapooja* was also made during pious *Adhik Maas*. Shri Pinakin Jani began *Mahapooja* with *Sanskrit Shlokas*. Shri Suvratkumar and Shri Saumyakumar had arrived on this occasion. Many *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of Pooja. Harinandan Swami explained the importance of *Mahapooja* beautifully.

During pious *Adhik Maas* Three Day *Katha* of *Bhakti Nidhi* created by Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami was performed by Mahant Swami Dharmvallabhdasji and Shatri Harinandandasji. Chief host and co-hosts of the *Katha* performed Poojan of Vyas Pith and spokesperson. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj here *Satsang* activities are performed on regular basis. (Pravinbhai Shah)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Itaska, Chicago

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, *Shree Hari Jayanti Pragyotsav* was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Itaska, Chicago. Shatri Swami Hariprasaddasji and Swami Jayprakashdasji had decorated *Parna* very beautifully. Shri P.P. Swami of Jetalpurdam had also arrived on this occasion and he had performed *Katha*. Importance of *Satsang* was explained by the spokesperson of *Katha*. A number of social programmes were organized on this occasion.

On 1st April 2010, *Pragyotsav* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. During pious *Adhik Maas* from 24th April 2010 to 1st May 2010 a beautiful *Katha* of *Shiksha Patri Bhasya* was performed. Shastri P.P.

Swami was the spokesperson of this *Katha*. With devotion and services of the saints and *Haribhaktas*, day by day activity of *Satsang* has been increasing and Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the whole Dharmkul are very much pleased with it.

(Vasant Trivedi)

2nd Patotsav of Cleveland temple and Suvarnakalash Pratistha Mahotsav

During the pious *Adhik Maas*, 2nd Patotsav of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Strongwill, Cleveland city of Ohio State of America and run by I.S.S.O. was celebrated from 02/05/2010 to 09/05/2010. H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj graced this occasion and granted for three days from 7th May to 9th May 2010 the benefit of *Darshan*, blessings, Pooja, Patotsav and Suvarna Kalash ritual to all the devotees.

Under the guidance of the president of the temple and the organizer of Mahotsav the devotee Shri Prakashbhai Bhalabhai Patel, a large number of devotees had rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. Furthermore as per the sculptural arts beautiful pillars dome and curves on the main gates were made of fibre-glass through our devotee Shri Hiteshbhai Pandya. Noteworthy services are being rendered by the devotee Shri Prakashbhai family as regards construction and management of the temple including the financial matters.

On the occasion of 2nd Patotsav, Shri ad Satsangibhusan Saptah Parayan was organized. Shatri Purushottamprakashdas (P.P. Swami) of Jetalpurdam was the spokesperson of *Katha*. A Three day Maharudra Yaag was also performed. Pandit Shri Bharatbhai Joshi had performed the rituals of this Yaag in Vedic tradition.

On 08/05/2010 Suvarna Kalash was installed in pious Abhijit Nakshatra with Dwajaroohan by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the top of the dome of the temple. This fulfilled the long cherished desire and wish of the devotees and *Haribhaktas* of Ohio and therefore they were very much happy. It is pertinent to note that, since the place was under the archeological Department of the city, necessary permission for changes in the elevation of the temple was obtained and this could be done only with the blessings of Shree Hari. On 09/05/2010 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Mahabhishek of the deities, the donors were honoured and they were offered the idol images of the deities as Prasadi. Every day of the Mahotsav, the ladies devotees prepared and offered Prasad to Thakorji. Accepting the invitation of Mahant Shatri Swami Swayamprakashdasji P.P. Swami from Jetalpur, Dharmswaroopdasji Swami from Nathdwara, J.P. Swami from Chicago, Sarveshwar Swami from Detroit, C.P. Swami from Vihokan,

Vivek Swami from Florida and Parshad Vanraj Bhagat had come to render their services. (Rakesh Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan temple Toronto (I.S.S.O.)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, special Bhajan Bhakti and Kirtan were performed in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Toronto. During the pious Purushottam Maas, special Bhajan Bhakti and parayan of 'Avtar Chintamani' created by Sadguru Shri Nishkulanand Swami were also performed. Beautiful arrangement of Parayan and Pooja were made by Swami Satyaswaroopdasji whose benefit was availed by large number of devotees. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal)

Celebration of Purushottam (Adhik) Maas in San Jose

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri

Acharya Maharaj, a three day Katha was organized by ISSO San Jose Chapter during the pious Adhik Maas. Ramanuj Swami of Los Angeles temple was the spokesperson of the Katha which was organized in Fremont Hindu temple. During the Katha Leela Charira of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan was narrated very beautifully with practical examples of real life situations which stressed how relevant are the teachings of Lord Shree Swaminarayan even today. Devotee Shri Rameshbhai Varsani rendered his services as the chief host of the Katha. Devotees Shri Prakashbhai Patel, Madhusudan Soni, Ghanshyambhai Patel rendered their services for Prasad. On Sunday Mahapooja was also organized and devotee Urjit Trivedi rendered services as host of Mahapooja whose benefit was availed by 18 families. About more than 250 devotees availed the benefit of Katha. (Prashant Dholakiya)

INTERNATIONAL FIVE DAYS' SATSANG SHIBIR OF LADIES DEVOTEES

Time : 3rd August 2010 to 7th August 2010

Venue: Shree Swaminarayan temple, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

In the pious company of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala, who has been established by Shree Hari as Guru of the ladies devotees, a grand International Five Dayss Satsang Shibir of ladies devotees has been organized from Tuesday 3rd August 2010 to Saturday 7th August 2010 in our Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

It will be a great and rare opportunity for all of us to listen to and to obtain guidance about Satsang and Sampradaya from our Guru H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala. During this Shibir, knowledge and importance of Agya, Upasana, Dharma, Gyan, Vairagya and Bhakti of our Sampradaya would be explained. Besides this Yoga Classes, Bhajan, Kirtan, commentary upon the religious book, cultural programme, methods of new recipes, Early Morning Pooja, Games, Mahendi and various types of competitions are also organized in this Shibir.

Children and babies of the ladies devotees participating in this Shibir, will be well taken care of during Shibir. It is our cordial invitation to all of you to avail the divine benefit of this Five Days's International Satsang Shibir. Necessary arrangements of meals and night stay of all the devotees would be made.

1. Dakshaben Patel (Chicago) Contact : 630-329-4025 E-mail : dpatel1958@gmail.com
2. Bijalben Patel (New Jersey) Contact : 201-916-3889 E-mail : atelbijal1234@gmail.com
3. Payalben Patel (South Jersey) Contact : 856-630-0208 E-mail : payal1234@yahoo.com
4. Shilpaben Patel (South Jersey) Contact : 201-341-8566 E-mail : shilpab1234@gmail.com
5. Falguniben Rathod (Central New Jersey) Contact : 732-662-0807 E-mail : falgu1@yahoo.com (ISSO New Jersey, Ladies Devotees Department)

AKSHARVAAS

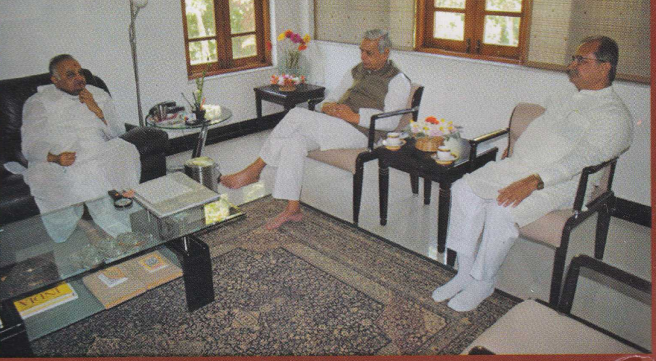
Haripar (Tal. Dhrangadhra) Devotee Shantaben Prabhubhai Bhuva (mother of the devotee Jadavjibhai Bhuva) has passed away to Akshardham (18/04/2010) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Aadraj Moti— Devotee Shri Thakor Varsangji Chehraj (Kothari) has away to divine abode of God (28/05/2010) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

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(1-2) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Abhishek* of Thakorji in Naraghat temple during pious *Adhik Maas* and blessing the *Sabha* on this occasion. (3) *Shreeji Maharaj* in the form of Shreenathji in Vagha of flowers in Approach (Bapunagar) temple. (4) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Bhoomi-poojan* in village Shekhpat (Muli Desh) the birth place of Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami. (5) Shastri Swami Atmprakashdasji addressing the devotees in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharaya Maharaj on the occasion of *Patotsav* of Zulasan temple. (6) H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performing *Bhoomi-poojan* of the modern residence for the pilgrims at Ayodhya temple. (7) H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraja and the devotees performing *poojan* of Thakorji in Balasinor on the occasion of *Satsang Utkarsh Sneh Milan*. (8) Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteswar Gurukul) performing *Katha* in Jivrajpark temple during pious *Adhik Maas*.



1-4) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing Abhishek to Thakorji on the occasion of 2nd Patotsav and Suvarna Kalash Pratistha Mahotsav of Cleveland temple, performing poojan of Suvarna Kalash Dhvaj-Dand and granting Darshan in Sabha. (5) Haribhaktas availing the benefit of Group Aarti during pious Adhik Maas in Sine Mension temple. (6) Hon'ble Speaker of the Gujarat State Assembly Mr.Ashokbhai Bhatt and Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama discussion with H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj during their courtesy visit of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

Museum Year
March 2010 - March 2011



ઈ.સ. ૨૦૧૦-૧૧નું વર્ષ “મ્યુઝિયમ વર્ષ”

પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ. આચાર્ય મહારાજશ્રી ૧૦૦૮શ્રી કોશલેન્દ્રપ્રસાદજી મહારાજશ્રીની આજ્ઞાથી માર્ચ ૨૦૧૧નું વર્ષ “મ્યુઝિયમ વર્ષ” તરીકે જાહેર કરવામાં આવે છે.

ઉદ્ઘાટન દર્મી માર્ચ ૨૦૧૧

શ્રી સ્વામીનારાયણ મ્યુઝિયમ શ્રી નરનારાયણ દેવની પાઠોત્સવ