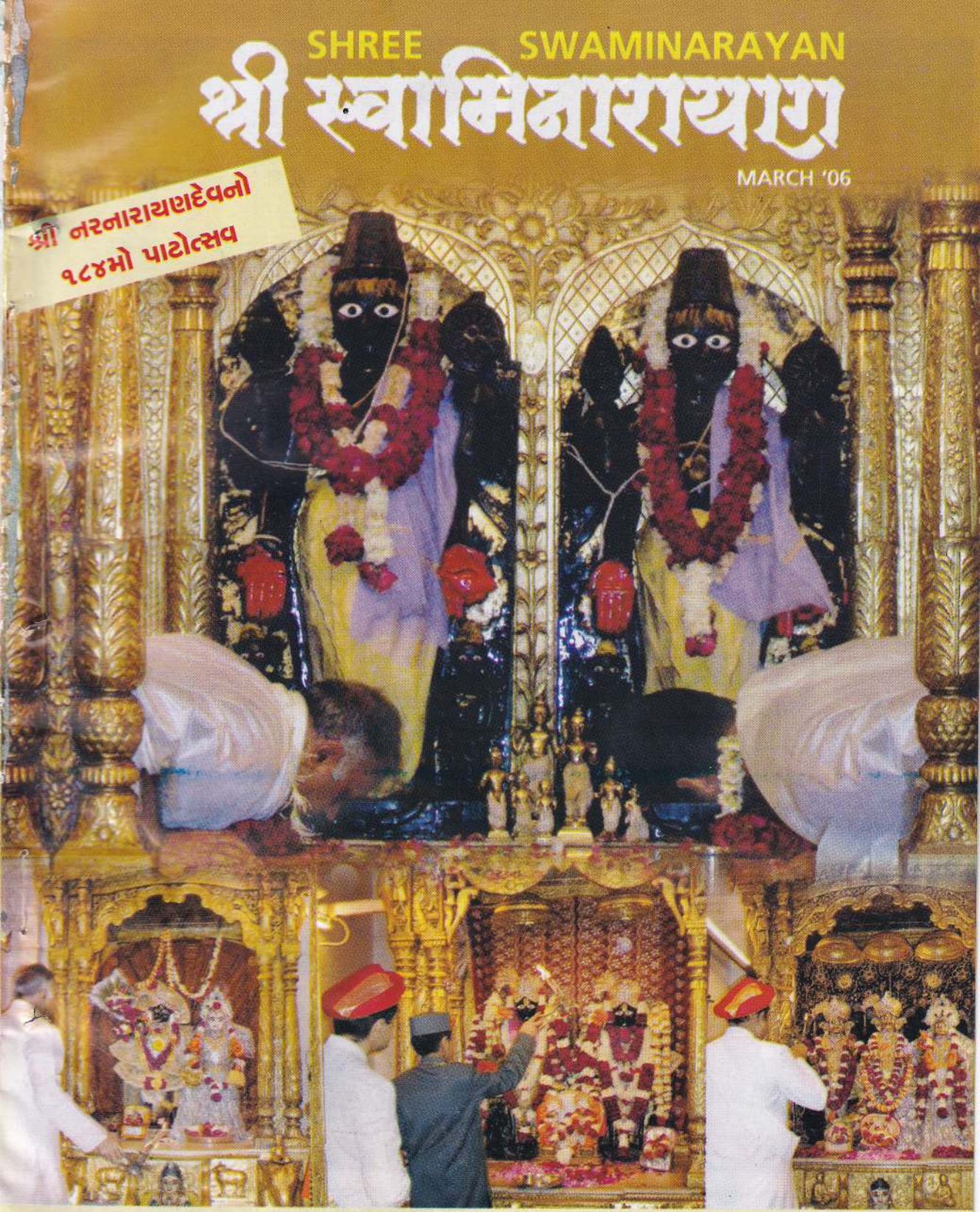
SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

MARCH '06

શ્રી નરનારાયણદેવનો ૧૮૪મો પાટોત્સવ



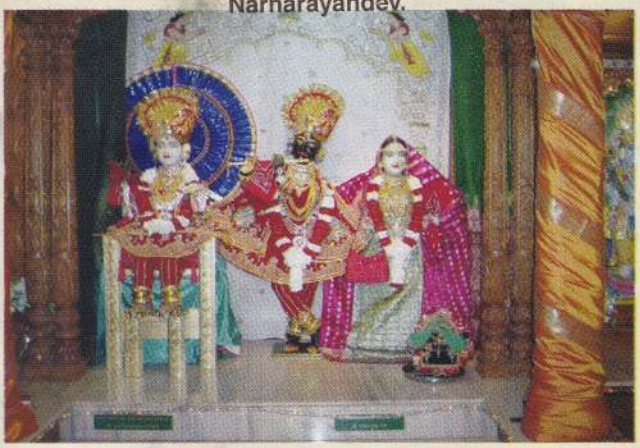
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Lord Shriji Maharaj in His three another forms, blessed his devotees at the 184th Annual Patotsava of Lord Narnarayandev.



Mahant Swami offers sacred sacrifice of coconut to Holy-fire on occasion of 184th Annual Patotsava. Host family accompanies in sacred rituals.



Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Shri Harikrishna Maharaj at Chicago Temple.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri ignites lamp to inaugurate Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan at Vasna (Ahmedabad) in presence of Host family of Shri Prakashbhai Bhalabhai and Shri Surendrabhai Patel (Chairman AUDA)



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents Patotsava Aarti at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Dhariawad. (Rajasthan)



Host devotees at Gamdi, receives blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.



Founded in 1998 A.D. By H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, Shri Narnarayandev Diocese.

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Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
श्री स्वामिनारायण

Vol : 8 No : 90 March 2006

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Editorial

Almighty Lord Supreme Shri Hari renounced the world in His Nilkanth Varni form and did pilgrimage of the holy shrines of greater India. He did penance as soon he renounced the world. Though was served frequently with sumptuous meals. Shri Nilkanth Varni forsook those sense objects at His free will, because he knew that the meals and meditation can not go together. A Sumptuous meal attracts sound sleep and sleep obstruct meditational concentration. A soul can not get emancipation without devotion and meditation. Therefore, the espirants of emancipation should renounce sense objects and should merge themselves in penance and devotion. It is most difficult to do darshan of God without penance - the penance of controlling sense organs. Bookish knowledge of the holy scriptures or the dialogues on renouncement can not bear good fruits like a darsan of God. Information or knowledge should be translated into action. One should practise it in his life and living. Don't disply your scholarship in delivering sermons. Such verbal expertise may pemper self ego, fame or false praise for some time. As we have withessed contemporarily, a few have garbed themselves in holy robe of a saint and have misled the innocent and godfearing people by their handiworks like saffron attires, speeches, illusive detachment misleading education and so called Tyaga. Such misled innocents lose their ultimate destination – emancipation. Now it has become imperative for the true Satsangi aspirants to absorb absolute knowledge of Shikshapatri the core of - the orders of Maharaj. The Shikshapatri is the soul and heart of this axiomatic religion and Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has spelled his orders with utmost clerity. Go back to Shikshapatri for a clear cut guide line. Those opportunist ascetics have nothing to do with real Tyaga, Vairagya or ultimate knowledge.

As Shriji Maharaj says, true religion with the attributes of renouncement, detachment, devotion and ultimage knowledte rise in a faithful aspirant deovtee with the due blessings and pleasure of Lord Naranrayandev. In rest of the cases, whatever we see in them is nothing but a show off to lure innocent souls. People are requested to act wisely with due alertness.

Shastri Swami Nirgundas
Editor
Shri Swaminarayan.



Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri

1. Graced the house of Shri Mansukhbhai P. Suhagia, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.
   Graced the house of Shri Arvinbhai C. Mangukia, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.
2. Graced Muli Dhaam. Benign presence at Vasant Panchmi, Patotsava and Rangotsava.
4. Blessed Shakotsava held at Jivrajpark, Ahmedabad.
5. Graced Patotsva celebrations organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Approach - Bapunagar.
   Graced engagement ceremonies organized at the family of Shri Dineshbhai Babubhai Soni, Kankaria, Ahmedabad.
   Graced the place of Shri Pareshbhai Babubhai Patel, Thaltej, Ahmedabad.
6. Graced Patotsava ceremonies organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Saraspur, Ahmedabad.
   Graced marriage ceremonies in the family of Shri Kanubhai B. Patel, Saraspur, Ahmedabad.
7. Presented Patotsava Abhishekam at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Narayanpura, Ahmedabad.
8-9. Graced Dhariawad and presented Patotsava Abhishekam at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Dhariawad (Rajasthan).
10. Graced Mokhasan and presetned Patotsava Abhishekam at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mokshasan. Blessed presence at the Parayan Satsang hosted by Shri Kantibhai Karsanbhai Patel and graced thereafter the house of Shri Ramnbhai I. Patel.
    Presented Patotsava Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji dwelling at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalol.
    Graced the houses of Shri Govindbhai H. Patel and Shri Vinodbhai P. Patel, Kadi.
11. Graced Centennial Patotsava - Parayan at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Soja and Silver Jibilee Annual Patotsava at the temple for the laides. Graced invocation rituals of Lord Hanumna's temple.
    Graced concluding ceremonies of Parayan Satsang hosted by Shri Prakashbhai B. Patel, Vasna, Ahmedabad.
12. Graced the place of Shri Narayanbhai L. Joshi, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad.
13. Graced the house of Shri Hasmukhbhai Makwana, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
    Graced marriage ceremonies organized in the family of Shri Jigarbhai D. Patel, Kankaria, Ahmedabad.
    Graced marriage ceremonies organized in the family of Shri Ghanshyambhai R. Patel, Sola Road, Ahmedabad.
    Graced marraiage ceremonies organized in the family of Mahendrabhai G. Patel.
14. Graced concluding ceremonies of Parayan Satsang hosted by Madhabhai K. Patel, Sachodar, Idar (S.K.)
15. Graced presence at Patotsava and Parayan Satsang presented to Lord Thakorji at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Bapupura.
16. Graced Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan hosted at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, by the devotee Shri Natvarbhai J. Patel, Itadara.
17. Graced Annual Patotsava at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Lunawada (Panch Mahals).

18. Graced Annual Patotsava and presented Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Narayan Ghat, Ahmedabad.
    Graced presence at the Kirtan-Katha session organized at the place of Shri Rameshbhai R. Marfatia, Mithakhali, Ahmedabad.
19. Graced "Vidur Niti-Parayan" organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Ahmedabad.
    Graced Parayan session at the house of Shri Rajubhai at Ranchhodpura (Teh. : Vijapur)
    Graced marriage of Shri Abhishek Prabhudas K. Patel, Ranip, Ahmedabad.
    Graced marraige ceremonies in the family of Shri Dashrathbhai K. Patel (Gavada wala), Sabarmati, Ahmedabad.
20. Graced Bhaktinagar of (Muli Desh) to invoke Lord Thakorji at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir.
21. Graced the hosue of Kaushikbhai V. Patadia, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.
22. Graced Sehara and presented Patotsava Abhishekam at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Panch Mahals.
23. Graced Daskoi area and presetned Patotsava Mahabhishekam at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kubadthal (Dashkoi).
24. Blessed the dwelling of Shri Vireshbhai Patel, Ranip, Ahmedabad.
25. Graced presence at the silver jubilee festivities of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Thuravas, Idar (S.K.)
27. Laid foundation of the 'Sant-Niwas' at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Siddhpur (High way)
28. Graced village Kaloli (Jetalpur)
    Graced Charadva temple at night on occasion of Annual Patotsava.

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I, Shastri Swami Nirgundasji do hereby declare that the details declared above are true as per my information and understanding.

Sd/- Shastri Nirgundasji
Mahant
Shri Swamianarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.

11-3-2006

Aroma of Satsang

- A. Pothiwala

Lord Shriji Mahaaj has graced many places in Gujarat and his devotees have maintained those spots like a sacred Shrine. Hundreds of towns and villages in Gujarat Saurashtra and Kutch feel glory and pride of Such sacred memorials. Shriji Maharaj was used to establish live dialogue with his saints and devotees, as and when they desired counsel and preaching from their Guru. Such sacred spots of meeting, discourses and dialogues have become shrines to pay obeisance to Maharaj. The devotees and aspirants have built there stone and marble canopies and have built there raised platform to present poojan-archan. These shrines of contemporary God, illuminate our heart and souls as and when we come closer to them. Shriji Maharaj had won the hearts of people by escorting them on the path of virtues and faith. We remember him automatically, as and when we pass by such sacred memorial. Holiness and sanctity of its environment removes heaviness of the heart and helps the soul to ascend to higher plane of consciousness.

Shriji Maharaj was used to conduct Satsang Sabhas as and when he had been at Gadhpur. There is a margosa tree at the place of Sabha and a large otta has been constructed there around the tree and the sacred place. Once Lord graced the Sabha at this place. Devotees and saints were gathered in front him to receive nectar like discourses. One among the devotees was his householder devotee Virdas Patel. Virdas was a god frearing soul, pure and openhearted.

The Dhoon and Kirtans were about to be concluded. Mean while, amdist the clappings and singing, came there his servent, 'Bhabha ? Please tell me, at which farm should I do plaughing ?' Listening to him in two mind, Devout Patel thought that though he has relinquished his householder assignments to come and attend this holy fellowship, the assignments and householeer duties were not relinquishing him. It was my mistake that I left the assignment unattended. Though, very much here at this holy fellowship of Maharaj, I will have to answer those householder assignments, because if I ignored it this moment, the work will come back again with it's increase size and complexity.'

Viradas never liked such interruptions in his religious activities. This was a bolt from the blue, due to his carelessness towards pending assignments. He regretted deeply for his mistake and reverted back to his employee, 'Look. Take plaugh to the 80 acre field bearing margosa trees.' His employee walked back to excute the orders of his master, but Virdas called him back when a small but serious problem came to his mind, 'Take good care and observe the land properly when plaughing the filed, take care of the hidden stems by lifting the plaugh, failing which, the bullocks shall be hurt at their neck.' Virdas Patel explained this hazard carefully and reminded him repeatedly to be extra careful in regard to those hidden stems and rocks. His eamplyee grasped the core of the explanation and went back to the farm.

Virdas Patel then turned to Maharaj and prayed with folded hands, 'Maharaj ! Please forgive me, I have disturbed satsang by my indulgence in ephemeral world.'

Maharaj is very smart. He knew what was transpired between virdas and his employee. He was not unhappy by such talk between them. Not only that, Maharaj himself was the person who had asked them repeatedly in past to maintain worldly relation with proper execution of householder duties. Moreover, Maharaj Himself is the unique personality who in such worldly

communication pick up the thread and adds spiritualism in mainstream of a dialogue. Such anacdots were liked more by the househlder satsngis to merge ownself in devotion and service of God. Such knowledge and enlightenment was much easy to absorb it. Maharaj never acted mechanically like a confirmed preacher. He always passed his message of virtus life in capsules of anacdots and episodes.

Maharaj says, 'Patel ! How do you know that there are hidden rocks and broken stems ?'

'Maharaj as and when we find such rock or stem, we place around them soil in a heai and when a plaugh reach such a heap, we lift the plaugh to protect neck of the bullocks, otherwise, unnecessary strain and jerk would injure our bullocks,' said virdas.

Maharaj smiled at him and addressed the Sabha, 'This devout Patel knows where about of the hidden rocks and dangerous stems hidden underground at 80 acre farm to damage agricultural equipment, but we poor souls know nothing about the obstructing rocks hidden in our small farm of palm size. He is a true master. How many from us has such knowledge ?' Prakashanand Swami prayed in a perflexed mind, 'Maharaj ! Our field – body – is not of a palm size, it is five feet tall and broad. One can not find damaging virus, unless they surface on body in form of a symptom. One will not know about desease without seeing a symptom.'

Maharaj says ! Our Antahkaran is very small. It is smaller than a palm. I am not talking about the heart – heart is nothing but a mechanism to maintain circulation of blood. There would be no sign of Kama and Krodha – desire and anger if he observes his machine like heart but if he observed his Antahkaran, he will find there lot many strains enough to dislodge spiritual health. Observe your Antahkaran, obsrve it carefully. You will find there many killer enemies. You should fix there guards and soldiers to arrest and imprison those dealy virds and strains. You should evacuate them. A snake can not left unattended, when one finds it hidden behind a tall jar of grains. One should pick it up by hand tongs to get him fixed in a bottle or pot. In like manner, one should not live care free, bacause the one has no knowledge about it's hiding place. A genuine farmer holds a handy spade and digs every inch of his field to lacate those hidden dangers. As a farmer keeps his farm neat and clean by weeding off broken stems and hidden rocks, we too like him, should keep sanctity and purity of our Antahkaran by uprooting obstructing rocks of desires, anger and ego. Poojan-Archan-Devotion are the instruments to maintain sanctity of the Antahkarn.

Meanwhile, a messenger from Queen Kushalkuvarba was come to handover something to Maharja. Maharaj looked at him and said, 'What have the brought here in that cloth bag ? Please come here and show it to us.'

This was a surprise for the assembly. People arrived from far flung places were used to come with surprise-gifts for Maharaj. But Maharaj, as and when looked at them, found out instantly, what thay have as a hidden surprise. Listner devotees were amazed by such divine powers of Maharaj. Maharaj, when looked at the visitor and asked him sponteneouly, about the gift, the whole assembly was taken aback like a picture on a wall. The visios at times were shy of such sudden call in public, Maharaj was helping them to act normally in their shyness. Maharaj like a good friend and a well wisher, was used to invite such visitor at his place or at times was used to walk forward to them to receive their good wishes. The farmers were used to bring handloom cloth earthen pots of butter oil, pots of curd green vegetables,

grains etc. Poor devotees like Jivan Bhagat, may come with a stale loaf of coarse grains (mutt). But all knower God- Maharaj never felt sorry for such a poor gift. He received mutt-loaf heartily and had it happily in front of devotees to express his hearty love for his faithfully devotees. Almighty supreme Lord dwelled on the earth to emancipate infinite number of earthly souls.

Queen Kushalkuvarba took each grain of peddy and uncovered the shell of the unbroken grain by her own hand. Such unbroken rice were packed carefully in that bag, and the bag of unbroken rice was presented to Maharaj through her personal messenger. Maharaj took the bag from his hand, opened it carefully and held the rice in his lotus like hand. Maharaj then said to the devotees, 'The queens majesty at the kingdom is similar to her majesty in devotion and evedom. She has many servents at her palace and her subjects too love to obey to her orders by proper execution of their duties, but instead of assigning this work of peeling peddy, she herself took pain to peel it carefully for me, because, she desired to do this personal service of me. This 'Chokha' were uncleaned peddy in a hard shell – a thick cover, but the queen had peeled off the shall to present to me clean and shining rice-Chokha. She did it carefully to present pure and unbroken rice. She had presented essence – nectar – core – of the peddy. She had gifted real substance. You too, need to be clean and pure like this gift. Maintain your cleanliness – purity to attain me – my proximity. Pure Satsangis are ornaments of holy fellowship. They are ornaments of this Satsang. I will dwell forever at the Antahkaran of such a pure devotee.

A few Satsangis at the Sabha came to Maharaj to seek blessings of Maharaj for their return journey. They paid obeisence and prayed, 'Maharaj ! Please be kind to us. Have mercy for us.' Maharaj blessed them heartily and offered prasad. As they walked back, Maharaj said, 'You too, try to be kind to us.'

The group reached the village out skirts, in hurry to reach home early. However, a wise among them, stopped his pilgrim friends and asked inquistitively, 'Maharaj has said that we too should be kind enough to him. Do you know what it meant ? I don't understand it. What exactly he means to convey ?' All of them were confused, without any answer to his question. At last they decided to go back to Maharaj to solve this riddle.

Maharaj was still there at the assembly to give devotional pleasure to his devotees. Maharaj saw them coming back to the assembly. He invited them to his seat, to find out reason for their quick return. Maharaj asked them about their come back. The devout pilgrims submitted politely, 'Maharaj ! It is alright if we pray you to be kind to us, but we cant understand the meaning of your message that you conveyed to us by repeating similar words to us. Please explain it to us for proper execution of your order.'

Maharaj continued his dialogue for enlightement of his devotees, 'Devotees ! Who are you ? Who is he ? Are those hands you ? or the legsm the eyes or the ears ? What exetly are you ? those organs toghater are not you. Not your real being. In a sense, sumtotal of these may be your gross body. You have house, families, property and wealth, but those are not 'you'. Perhaps they belong to your gross body, but gross body is not your true self. There are 'Panch Pran' (vital air) and it belongs to you. But vital air is not 'you.' Then tell me, 'you' means who ? you may mention your name – Shivabhai, Keshavji or Pujaji to mention your self, but those are names and the names have their own end. Names are destined to be destroyed.

Con. on page 18

ONE WHO FORGIVES, IS THE GREAT

- Shastri Hari Swami

Who is great ? Is he great if held power ? No. Is he great, if possessed the wealth ? No, not at all. Then, who is to be treated as 'great' ? How it can be judged ? Perhaps, this episode has an answer.

There was a Satpurusha in Maharashra. He was a saint. People knew him as Eknathji. He was famous and kind hearted saint. He was known for his virtues. Once he went for a pilgrimage of Southern Indian. It was a most difficult pilgrimage lasting for months and years. He at the Shrine of Haridwar filled holy water of sacred river Ganga and carried on his shoulder the pair of the cauldrons hung to the either ends of a thick stick. He was aspiring to present water of ganges to Lord Shiva at Rameshwaram – the southern most of India.

There were no comforts of vehicles in ancient time of him. No rail, no road transport. He wlaked on feet to complete pilgrimage of Rameshwaram. He walked for the days, weeks and months, crossed the forests of central India and passed through the vallies hills, ghats and arid regions, with heavy burden of his water containers. He took great care, so that a single drop of water was not spilled on the earth. He did it most religiously to pay hearty obeishance to Lord Rameshwar dwelled at the southern most of India.

As he passed through the perched land, he found there a donkey dieing for water. Beast was convulsing in dire want of water. Travellers, villagers and pilgrims were passing by the donkey laid on the earth but paid no attention to suffering of the animal. People have less respect for animals and some from them treat donkeys as a most negligible and filthy beast. In fact, it is a false notion. It reveals our prejudice towords that beast. It is a fact that the ass is the only animal who never burden his mater to get grass or water. This beast never complains for his hunger or thirst. Ass works hard for his master without any return. Ass is an unpaid slave, scavenging heaps of waste and dirt in search of some food. Ass pulls on his days by whatever it got from the waste.

Eknathji saw the convulsing beast breathing last in want of water. Eknathji emptied his container to satisfy thirst of the beast. People taunted him for his foolishness. He was wasting precious holy water meant for Lord Shiva at Rameshwaram. People joked at worldly wisdom of Eknath ! but Eknath ignored them absolutely and offered entire consignment to that poor ass. Satpurasha's presence eradicates all ills. Donkey too got new life and energy. Beast stood on it's feet ! Living beings become normal on receiving nectar of life from a saintly soul like Eknathji.

In his onward pilgrimage, saint Eknathji halted beneath a tree and cooked Bati (roasted loaf of wheat flour) and procured frest plantain leaves to use it as a plate to arrange thaal of Ghee-Bati for Lord Bal Mukund. As he sat in lotus posture, and shut his eyes in meditative mood, a stray dog, who was in search of food, pounced on the meal and ran away with the bread. Ekntahji opened his eyes, looked at the bowl of Ghee and the dog running away with the bread in his mouth. Eknathji took the bowl and chased him faster, but not for punishing the beast ! Eknathji requests in a panting tone, 'Oh Thakorji ! Oh My darling God ! How could you swallow

such dry and ailless loaf ? please have some butter-oil for a pleasant and sumptuous morsel. Please stop and wait. I am at your service.' Chase and shouts scared the dog. Beast doubled up it's speed. Eknath too ran faster to meet him. Eknath was about to drop unconscious on the ground, in excessive run. Thakorji at last lost his patience and desired to manifest his divine image. The Dog with a loaf in mouth, merged gradually, forming the divine image of Lord Thakorji and turned to Eknath, 'Come on ! come on ! Please add oil in my loaf. With bread in his palm, Lord Thakorji stood innocently in front of His devotee Eknathji !

Eknathji came to the holy shrine of Shrirang. Shrirang is the holy shrine of Southern India. He had holy dip in sacred river Kauveri and went to wards the divine abode of Lord Shri Rang Bhagwan. After the holy bathing he walked to the abode of Lord Shrirang Bhagwan. A wet cloth was hung to his shoulder. With down casted eyes he was walking strait at the main street destined to the temple. a stupid householder came to the balcony of his house and spitted on Eknathji. He spitted intentionally to create conflict to fight with Hindu Sadhu, by instregating him with such act of desecration, but Eknathji paid no attention to his nonsense. Eknathji looked nowhere, paid no attention to it. He went back and bathed again to purify himself. had holy dip without any anger or ego and walked silently towards the shrine with absolute concentration in image of Lord Shrirang Bhagwan, but as he reached that spot, the same person repeated his act of desecrating saint Eknathji. Like before, Eknathji went back to the holy river without any reaction and had holy dip to purify himself. the act of repeated spitting and repeated holy dips lasted for a long time right from early morning till noon and Eknathji had one hundred holy dips to sanctify himself ! After a century of his misdeeds, the culprit realized the gravity of his sin. He came down to the street and held the lotus feet of sant Eknathji. He prayed, 'Oh Satpurusha ! Oh Great saint ! Please forgive me for my sinful acts. Please take away your wooden slippers and hit me on my head. I am a big fool, I am a sinner. Please punish me for my ugly acts.' Eknathji looked at him with compassion and said in a cool tone, 'Oh Householder ! Oh Gentleman ! You have not commited any sin. You have helped me to have one hundred holy dips in sacred water of Kauveri. We Hindus adorn great respect for Kauveri. Kanveri is the Ganges of Southern India. I am a lazy man. I was come here in the morning to have sacred dip hurridly to do Darshan of Lord Shrirang Bhagwan and right after that I was to leave this place. By your acts, you have helped me to have one hundred holy dips and lots of time for poojan worship and meditation of Lord Shrirang Bhagwan. I am indeed thankful to you. You have helped me to stay for long in this holy company.' Eknathji placed his right hand palm, on the head of the miscreant and blessed him heartily, intiated Gurumantra and granted discipleship to that muslim.

Forgiveness and compassion are cardinal virtues. These virtues are capable to change thinking and life style.

Who can forgive ? A weak person can not forgive. A strong and conscious one holds the capacity to forgive others. A weak or feeble may fall on the earth by a slap landed on his chic. His incapability to react, can not be treated as forgiveness. Be kind and generous. Be strong and capable to forgive others.

Inherent Nature Stood Unchanged Despite A Pilgrimage

- Sadhu Shrirangdas

Long long ago, there near a village was a large hermitage attached to a temple. A saint was residing at the hermitage to do service of God at the temple. Residents of near by villages were used to come to the temple to present Aarti-Poojan to indewelling God. Saint was a kind hearted Satpurusha. He was conducting Katha-Satsang at the hermitage to enlighten villagers. Villagers had unbroken faith and trust in God and the saint. They were treating saint as their Guru – spiritual guide. There was family like environment amongst devotees and the saint. Saint too, loved them like his children. He always helped them in their family problems and guided them to live wholesome family life.

Mahatmaji, once thought to organize a pilgrimage. He conveyed his idea to the devotees and asked them to organize a pilgrimage. They declared the programme of the pilgrimage and offered a chance to the devotees to do darshan of great shrines. Though the message was released at the temple during an evening Aarti, the proposed vilgrimage and its programme reached almost each house and every village in the area. People started to visit the hermitage to confirm the programmes and enroll their name. They inquired at first if the saint – Guruji – was to guide them during the pilgrimage. Man always remembers his near ones, before he begins any work. Here at the hermitage devout pilgrims desired holy company of Mahatma in their forthcoming pilgrimage. The group of the pilgrim devotees went to the saint and requested him to join them in pilgrimage. Mahatmaji, though was not ready to disturb his schedule of penance, agreed at later stage on account of persistent requests from the devotees. The consent to join and lead the pilgrimage acted like a miracle and hundreds of devotees joined the pilgrimage to receive enlightening presence and holy company of Mahatma.

As the number of participant increased many fold, almost all the families dwelled at neighbouring villages enroulled themselves for this religious tour. Even the people, engaged in lower kind of occupation, came forward at their free will to wash off their sins of past by this pilgrimage and holy copany of Mahatmaji.

A confirmed criminal – a thief came to the hermitage to request organizers to register his name for the pilgrimage, but the organizers refused him out rightly. Thief then went to the seat of Mahatma and requested him for a merciful favour. Mahatma too knew him very well as a confirmed criminal – a habitual thief, therefore he said, 'Oh Gentleman ! people doubt your integrity in regard to your bad habit of stealing. They don't want you in their group. You are a thief. You could be a liability to me if indulged in act of stealing.' The thief then prayed to the saint, 'Mahatmaji ! You are hundred percent correct in regard to my past, but I have stopped stealing and thieving. I am no more in that job. I don't do stealing. I have not committed any theft in recent past and in future I will adhere to my words. Please pardon me for my past and allow me in the pilgrimage.' Mahatmaji said in compassion, 'Oh Devotee ! I know, you were a thief for a

long time and habit of thieveing will not leave you easily, despite your conscious efforts. I shall be in awkward postion, if pilgrims lost any thing due to you. You shall be a liability for me. Please consider this issue and promise me on oath that you will not steal anything throughout our pilgrimage. I will allow you in our pilgrimage if you declare this on oath.' Thief agreed to the proposal and declared on oath that he will not commit any theft, any more. Mahatmaji permitted him to join pilgrimage.

They fixed the date of pilgrimage and the pilgrims gathered at the temple at the appointed day and time for the pilgrimage. Pilgrimas were very happy in holy company of the saint and the pilgrimage progressed peacefully in following days. The saint was very happy by the devotional fervour of the pilgrims. Though the time passed peacefully and devotional fervour dominated in pilgrims life, Mahatmaji was bit worried in regard to the thief who had joined them recently. Mahatmaji hopes for good. Thus the days are passing as usual in peace, calm and devotion. Camping places are being managed very efficiently and there are no complaints in regard to lodging or boarding. Maximum of time is devoted to devotion and meditation. The pilgrimage was to continue for a month and only few days were passed with such sanctity and devotion but a strange and unusual event took place on the eighth day of pilgrimage. A pilgrim found a towel missing from his beg. He inquired with his companion but found no clue of it. At last they went to the saint and submitted the facts. Mahatmaji heard them with compassion and promised them for an early action. Mahatmaji saw it as an act of stealing. A towel can not be lost from a bag without stealing it. This was a theft and he should investigate it.

Meanwhile came there another devotee to present his case. Mahatmaji looked at him with worry in the eyes. The visior submits, 'Oh Guruji ! This is very strange. I have got this towel in my bag. It is not my mine, and I have not seen it before. How could it be in my bag, when it was not kept there by me ?' Mahatmaji asked him to leave the towel there. He then sent a message to the previous pilgrim who was in search of his missing towel. Pilgrim got back his lost towel !

The episode of lost and found was not ended there. On the next day, there were six pilgrims, complaining about the things they lost from their bags and there were pilgrims who found the things which were not belonged to them and they found those things in their bags ! Some one lost his purse and some one his book and one other side some on got a gold chain of others, laid in his bag ! Such were the complains. It was great confusion – a mess. It appeared like some one's mischief. The things which were found in the bags were missed from the bags of the others. Some one was lifting the items from the bags of the pilgrims and then he was placing those items in the bags of other pilgrims ! Nothing was missing ! All the itmes were misplaced intentionally ! The 'lost and found' activity lasted for the four days and taxed every minute of the saint. The saint at last turned to the thief and interrogated him extensively. The thief submitted to Mahatmaji, 'Oh My Guru ! I am the person, responsible for this state of affairs. I have misled the pilgrims by lifting the belongings from their bags and placing those thing in the bags of the others. Please forgive me.' The saint says, 'Why you did so ?' The thief submits, 'Mahatmaji ! Thieveing is my occupation. It is my job. I can not forgot my

Con. on page 14

HOLIKOTSAVA

(Festival of Colours)

- Sadhu Dharmkishordas (Allahabad)

હોળી આવી, આવી હોળી, આવો જન સૌ દોડી
રાગદ્વેષ મિટાવી દઈને, નાખો જીવન જોડી
હૈયામાં આનંદ જગવતી, આવી આજે હોળી
પ્રભુ કાર્યની નિષ્ઠા રાખી, બાંધો સાચી ટોળી

(Welcome the colourful festival of Holi. Come and greet. Remove your prejudice and avarice and rebuild everlasting friendship. Heart bursts in happiness in festivities of Holi. It recreats hopes and aspiration. Be faithful to God and create a well knit team to fight against the sins and vices.)

The full moon day in Falgun is celebrated as Holkotsava. People meet each-others freely on this festive occasion. They leave aside the burden and guise of formalities, they free themselves from the ropes of formal discipline and act freely on call of their hearts and unbounded soul.

This freedom – the freedom out of limits - causes at times very serious problems if the acts are not monitored with worldly wisom. There is a very thin limiting line between disciplined life and extra-free behaviour. Man should maintain this limit to avoid undesirable outcome.

The festival of Holi means a red carpet welcome to the spring season. Pleasant natural wealth of the spring season, should not harm our self-discipline. Lord Shiva has set for us an ideal example by burning kama (covetousness) in fire of penance and holiness. This is an educative episode. The desires if use the sping season as a weapon to attack and charge on goodness, then the desires will have to be burnt to ash at their own choice. Fragrant breeze of Falgun brings message of a new life – a value added life.

આયો રે આયો ફાગણિયો રે
આયો હોલીનો રંગ લાયો રે હો !
તન મન ને રંગે છે ઉમંગે, અંતરને ભીંજવતો
ભાવોની ભરતીને સૌના, હૃદિયામાં રેલવતો
છોરૂ ગામના ભેળા મળ્યા સૌ, જબરો જંગ મચાયો
ગોકુળમાં પિચકારી લઈને, નાચે જશોદા જાયો !
જીર્ણ જુનાં પર્ણો ખંખેરી, નવલે રંગ રંગાયો
નવજીવન નો આવે સંદેશો, નવતર ચેતન લાયો !

(Falgun has come with the colour of Holi. It colours our body, mind and heart with the colours of new hopes. Tender feelings excite us in joy and blissful happiness. Children in Gokul have gathered together to celebrate festivities of colour with Shri Krishna – darling son of Jashodaji. Trees have wore new colorful attires of fresh leaves and flowers by sheding off old-fragile leaves. Holikotsava spreads message of new life and new consciousness.)

The story behind this festival, is unique and inspiring. In ancient time, there was a king - a demon king. His name was Hirnyakashipu. The sense objects and the worldly pleasures were the cardinal aim of his life. He believed himself as God and spent his life in luxuries of royal life. He never thought beyond his gross body and the sense objects. He was cruel and merciless towards his subjects. Demons means the souls

who live at the material plane. They are in dormant state-inertia. They never think about spiritual enlightenment. Their world revolves around them and ends within them.

However, like a lotus bloomed in muddy water, king Hiranyakashipu got a son-Prahlad – spreading fragruace and charms of virtuous life. Prahlad's mother lived at the hermitage of Rishi Narada, during her pregnancy. The Samskaras and the sacred atmosphere of the hermitage effected deeply on the child – Prahlad. Indian culture and Hindu way of life are unique :

"પ્રહલાદ સમા ભક્તો અહિંયા રાક્ષસને પેટે પાક્યા છે,
કાંટા વચ્ચે રહીને પણ પુષ્પો પ્રભુ ચરણે પામ્યાં છે !"

(Virtuous souls like Prahlad are born here in the families of the demons. Though lived in a prison of thorns, the flower have got the place at the lotus feet of God.)

Prahlad was a devotee of God. His heart was full with devotion. His father tried to change his mental frame and asked him to stop devotion, but Prahlad was a firm and faithful servent of God. He never changed his mind. Disheartened king – Hiranyakashipu – thought then to kill his son, because that child believed in God and directed others to do so. Prahlad was a direct threat to the demonic vices of Hiranyakashipu. The change in subtle form, caused by Prahlad, was capable enough to shake off the roots of demonic life. How a demonic father could bear such acts of his son ?

One among the many ways to kill Prahlad, was to kill him in burning fire. To get him tied to the fire, they arranged lap of his peternal aunt – Holika. Holika bore a boon and according to that no fire was to harm her if she did not troubled virtuous soul. She consented to the request and sat herself on a huge pile of burning wood. She took Prahlad on her lap.

As was expected by god fearing people, Holika lost her life in the flames of devastating fire-and no harm was caused to Prahlad. Child Prahlad walked with a smile on his face and crossed the heap of hot ash. Prahlad was a small boy and like him the people, who are virtuous, are always small in number, if compared them to the number of viceful people. The will and determination of such a small group, defeats largest lot of the sinners. The vices and the sins can not harm a faithful devotee. His trust and faith are enough to destroy demonic forces.

Now a question arises, why we worship Holi-fire, when Holika herself tried to burn Prahlad ? Why such collective Poojan-worship goes on since thousands of years ? This entirely is a different episode. This is in memory of a promise extended by fire- God. The story is like this.

God fearing residents did poojan-worship of fire and fire-God on the day when Holika took Prahlad to burn him. They with their family worshipped the deity of fire. There was poojan worship of fire at all the houses. They prayed to fire – God to save Prahlad. This shows power of devotional love – power of selfless love. Prahlad won the hearts of people. Lord Agni consented to the prayers of virtuous souls and directed fire to save Prahlad. The flames of devastating fire did no harm to Prahlad and protected him on the hot bed of ash. Holika was burnt in this Holi-fire, and unharmed Prahlad proved the power of devotion. The Pooja initiated to save Prahlad became an occasion to celebrate life of Prahland. As the time passed, people brought this festival in the streets and squares to celebrate it collectively, to share pleasure

and joys with the neighbours and the friends. Holika Poojan stands for destruction of vices and protectin of virtues. It is a symbol. Symbol of good wishes, symbol of eternal bliss.

'होलिकामागतां दृष्ट्वा हृदि हर्षन्ति मानवाः ॥
पापमुक्तास्तु संजाता क्षुद्रता विलयंगता ॥'

(People rejoice the darshan of Mother Holika. A Darshan of Holika destroys our sins.)

Thus, the people rejoiced the well being of Prahlad by sprinkling colours and flower petals. They coloured each other by bright colours of life and joy, and some from those threw dust and earth particles. Thus the day following Holikotsava, became popular as Dhuleti. The clours of sky and the earth mingled together to express feelings of the mankind. All are equal at the celebrations. Rich and poors, great and commons, masters and servents, celebrate together without any discrimination among them. This shows personality of Prahlad. Intellectuals and labourers have worked to gather to change social philosophy :

ઉચનીચના ભેદ ભૂલાવો, અહંભાવના ખોટી
કૌરવની સેના બહોળી પણ નીકળી સાવજ મોળી !

(Forget about inequalities and work together without ego. Kauravas were a very large army but they failed to prove their strength.)

Prahlad has injected life and consciousness in elders and youngers. God manifested himself from a pillar a lifeless – inert – pillar. The people were inert like a pillar, but Prahlad has injeted in them the fire of life and hope. He has invoked ferocious lion in the heart of scared mankind. Nar – man – stands for love and Simha – lion – stands for courage and power. The love and the courage as an united entity destroyed the most destructive demon – Hiranyakashipu. Demonic forces are bound to be killed by the united strength of awakening and unity :

એક બીજાના દોષ ભૂલીને જો ગુણને ખોળી
ગુણદર્શનથી કાર્ય વિકસતું, એ સમજાવે હોળી.

(Festival of Holi teaches us to forget follies of others. It helps us to look at the hidden virtues of the others. Positive attitude is a key to success.)

We should burn our bad habits in holy fire of Holi. We should destroy our inner and outer dirt in fire of Holi :

પાપ જલાવો હોલિકામાં, ભરો પુણ્યની ઝોળી,
પ્રભુચરણમાં જીવન ધરશો તો હોળી એજ દિવાળી !

(Burn your sins in fire of Holi. Fill your bag by your virtuos acts. Submit absolutely at the sacred feet of God. Let Holi be Diwali for you.)

Con. from page 11

Inherent Stood Unchanged Despite Penance And Pilgrimage

skill and habit of stealing, even if I stopped stealing for a period of one month. I am lifting tha things under the force of my old habit and placing those lifted items else where to keep my self abreast to my promise to your worthy self. Pilgirms have lost nothing by my action. I have changed the place of their things, but has stole nothing.'

Friends ! Inherent nature and bad habit can not be changed. Man does not like to change his nature. His life shall be fulfilled eternally if he changes his habit for good.

S.G. Nishkulanand Swami says :

"આંકડો વાંકડો વીંછીના સરીખો, કદી ન રાખીએ વારૂં
દેખી દગે કોઈ દયા ન આણે, પડે માથામાં પેજારૂં."

(Don't present your self in shape of a poisonous scorpion. Nobody is to be kind to such an appearance, but may crush you under a stone.)

Therefore live happily by leaving your ill nature.

KATHA-VARTA

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas
(Narayan Ghat)

શબ્દે માર્યા મરીયા,
શબ્દે છોડ્યા રાજ,
જેણે શબ્દ વિચારીયા,
એના સરીયા કાજ.

(The words have coused deaths. The words have caused exilement and loss of kingdom. Those who spoke thoughtfully have won the world.)

Nothing in the world is more powerful than the words. A large number of words forms a speech or a dialogue. The words in a speech or a dialogue have a meanibgful relation ship between them. A child listens to such talk or tales since his birth and grows in age and wisdom by listening to such talks – tales or Kathas. Such talks or tales may be about different subjets. Those tales may be good or bad, may be meaningful or senseless. Among these tales on different subjects, the tales related to God and Satpurusha or called Katha. Satpurushas are blessed released souls and faithful devotees of God. Thus, the stories or tales related to God are called 'Katha'. Reverse form of world 'Kathaa' is "Thakaá. 'Katha' means a tale and 'thaaka' means tiredness. Katha helps the listeners to remove his tiredness. Great saints have said that the aim of a Katha is to banish taredness of the listerners. Therefore, the words are effective in both ways they act like a killer or sustain us like a saviour.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – Iron man of India was pleading a court case at the court of senior Judge. He was to lose the case in a major defeat, if a witness presented himself for a w.tness. Shri Vallabhbhai was an expert lawyer with practical sense. He chose four friends of that witness and asked them to visit the house of that witness. Further, he ensured that they visit him individually and one after another, with a gap of one hour between each of them. He asked them to inquire about his health and feverish state. Though the witness was in pink of health, each one of those visiting friends expressed deep concern in regard to health of him and in four hours of constant visits, witness himself started to feel fever and body ache. At the time of his witness and statement, he was laid on bed in high temperature. Vallabhbhai Patel won the case due to absence of key-witness. The words have immense power to change mind and behaviour.

King Gopichand renounced kingdom and the court on words of his mother. The tale is somewhat like this : King Gopichand was receiving bathing rituals and maids were helping him to have royal bathing with sixteen fragrant objects. His mother saw him from her balcony. She looked at her son and a tear of sad memory dropped on the back of Gopichand. Gopichand felt the warmth of the tear and stared upword to findout source of the tear. He saw Raj Mata looking at him in pain and grief. Gopichand went to her and submitted, 'Mother ! Why are you sad ? What has happened ?' Mother looked at her son and said, 'Your father too, was handsome and brave like you, but.....' Gopichand asked hastily 'Mother ! Please tell me. Please express it completely. Please tell me more about my father.' Mother said in remorse, 'My son ! His end is known to you. You have seen him in his last breaths.' Gopichand payred, 'Mother ! Kindly guide me for the eternity. How should I attain it ?' Mother says, 'My child ! Do devotion. Submit absolutely at the lotus feet of God.' King Gopichand renounced the kingdom and spent entire life in service of God. Thus, the words wield immense power.

Dhruvji too got eternal seat by the power of the words. Dhruyas step mother taunted him, 'Why don't' you come back as a son of

the principal queen ? Such birth would help you to sit on the lap of your father – the king.' Dhruva left the kingdom and did penance to be born as a son of the principal queen – his step mother. Within six months of penance, he did darshan of God. God blessed him with eternal celestial seat.

Nomadic robber Valio, became Rishi Valmiki by the words of Narada. These expisodes are famous in the world. Similar is the story of Tulsidasji. In his youth, Tulsidas was mad after his wife – Tara. He went to meet his wife and crossed stormy river by a ride on a corpse. He ran like an animal amidst darkness of the rainy night. He reached the house of his in-laws and climbed the wall by holding the tail of a snake, as he misunderstood it as a rope. His godfearing wife said :

જૈસી પ્રીત હમસે, વૈસી હરિસે હોઈ
ચલા જાય વૈકુંઠમાં, પલ્લા ન પકડે કોઈ.

(Love Shri Hari, as you have loved me. Love for God emancipates the soul.)

These words of his wife, enlight ened the soul of Tulsidas. Youthful Tulsidas renounced the worldly pleasures and became renown saint 'Sant Tulsidas.' He wrote 'Ramcharit Manas' to sing praise of Lord Shri Rama. S.G. Gunatitanand Swami, who was the one among those Paramhamsas, has said, 'That must be your 'Moha' if you found the subtance more in a scritprue other than the scripture of Vachanamrita.' Bhagwan Swaminarayan has said in his dialogue with aspirants (Vachanamrit, G-L-24) : 'What causes the greater love for God and devotion ?' 'devotional love and devotion rise in proportion to one's participation in Katha-Varta, and in like manner one dislikes sense objects. Kama, Krodha and other inner enemies shall be destroyed on listening Katha-Varta. Those who are lazy or careless towards Katha Varta are not to imbibe virtues.

In similar way, Vachanamrit-G-F-59 says : Demon Pralambasura took Balaramji on his back and ran away with him. Though held immense power within him, Lord Balramji never kenw about his inner strength and power. Then in such circumstances, a celetial proclamation disclosed to him, 'Oh Balramji ! Have you forgotten that you are most powerful ?' Enlightened Balramji knew about his inner power and defeated the demon. Katha-Varta or holy-preachings invoke our inner power to defeat the evil forces.

Shriji Maharaj explains majesty of Katha-Varta (Vach. G.M.-35) : when I preached to him my eternal form and my divinity, Swarupanand Swami grasped it like nectar. This Katha Varta helped him to attain eternal bliss in his sickness.'

King Prithu was a great devotee of God. God asked him to get a boon. He begged to God to bless him ten thousand ears to listen to the Katha-Varta of Bhagwan. He never desired a boon for the sense objects or else.

Shriji Maharaj says (Vachanmarit K-12) : The Maya in a form of body, is like a permanent shieled attached forever to soul. It is not separable. The causal body will crumble if the soul in holy company of a saint, receives Katha-Varta Satsang. Thus the Katha-Varta causes end of the Maya – the sense objects. The soul and body when together, they look like the seeds of temerind. The temerind seeds are covered by a hard shall. One will have to roast the temerind seeds to burn the hard shell to a desired softness. Such burnt shell shall be removed easily to have tasteful inner seed. Desires, anger and ego are like a hard shell covering our soul. Katha-Varta Satsang and Vrattas like Chandrayan and others, burn the hard shell to release the soul.

S.G. Gopalanand Swami was a faithful saint and Paramhamsa of Lord Shriji Maharaj. The responsibility of the first Acharyas of both the Deshas was entrusted to him, by Shriji

Maharaj himself. One his Satsnagi devotee, Shri Sadashivbhai, got constructed a majestic villa, organized house warming ceremonies in grand way and planned a Maha Pooja to please Lord Shri Hari. Shri Sadashivbhai went to his Guru – S.G. Gopalanand Swami to invite him for these grand events. S.G. Gopalanand Swami consented to his invitation, but differed the date of visit. Further, he asked his devout Satsangi to stay with him for the ten days to proceed together for the grand event. Shri Sadashivbhai was a faithful Satsnagi. He obeyed to the order of his Guru and halted there with his Guru. He was very happy that his Guru was to come with him at his house to celebrate the event. During next week, they received a letter from the village of Sadashivbhai. This urgent message conveyed a sad news. The haveli (villa) was destroyed to ashed in a fire. When he received the message, Satsnagi Sadashivbhai took it very lightly and prayed to S.G. Gopalanand Swami, 'Swami ! I was proud of my villa when I came here to invite you, but the Satsang. has Katha Varta in your holy company has worked like a miracle to destroy my Moha. I feel nothing for that accident. Maya withdrawn it's destructive weapon. I am free and happy. It is good that I was not there at the villa, other wise I would have lost my life along villa. A coward becomes a brave warrior by attending Katha-Varta. It destroys our inner weakness.

Bhagwad-Kath a is likea rising call of alertness. It is like a alerting call of a watchman. Waking state protects us against theft and robbery.

Once a Haribhakta came to Gopalanand Swami. He narrated sad story of the death of his goat. While narrating sad event, he began to weep and cried profusely despite consolation from the fellow Satsangis. Gopalanand Swami, who listened to him calmly right from beginnig, began to cry with his weeping Satsangi. Agonised Satsangi heard the sobs of S.G. Gopalanand Swami. He looked at Swami and prayed, 'Swami I am weeping for my dead goat, but why should you weep ? Goplanand Swami said in sobs, 'Bhagat ! I am mourning the death of my Katha-Varta. Since years, you are here at this holy Satsang listening Katha-Varta everyday. At this point, I find big failure of my Katha Varta Satsang.

In his Godi-Pada S.G. Brahmanand Swami Sings :

સંત સમાગમ કીજે હો, નિસ દિન સંત સમાગમ કિજે
માન તજી સંતન કે મુખસે, પ્રેમ સુધા રસ પિજે હો.....

(Do daily Satsang at holy fellowship. Listen to sacred Katha-Varta. Be ego free in your daily life. Listen Katha-Varta from the saints. It is nectar of evedom).

Shriji Maharaj loved Katha-Varta and Kirtans. S.G. Premanand Swami narrates devotional ways of Shri Hari :

કથા સાંભળતા રે, હરે હરે બોલે
મર્મ કથાનો રે, સુણી મગન થઈ ડોલે
હાર ચડાવે રે, પૂજા કરવા આવે
તેના ઉપર રે, બહુ ખીજી રીસાવે

(Shriji Maharaj utters 'Harea' 'Harea', While listening to Katha Satsang. He realises core of the Katha by shaking momentarily his head. At Satsang he shows disliking and anger if interrupted by feliciatation and poojan at an ongoing Katha session.)

S.G. Nishkulanand Swami sings :

વાત હેતની હૈયે ધારજો રે.

(Listen carefully the talks of eternal love).

And in another devotional song :

માનો મળી છે મોટી વાત, હાથ આવી તેમા હારજો રે
કરી જતન દિવસ રાત, સૂતા બેઠાં સંભારજો રે.....

(This is most valuable treasure of the teachings. Surrender to this miraculous teachings. Take good care of each teaching, by remembering it

constanly, day and night.)

Chaitanyanand Swami was used to maintain good many things in his personal possession. He relieved himself of possessiveness by Katha Varta Satsang and holy company of Gopalanand Swami.

King Sayajirao of Baroda received Shriji Maharaj with a red-carpet welcome. A grand procession was organized on this occasion: A treader's wife saw it from the balcony and listened to the devotional music. Musicians and singers were playing the tunes of : રે સગપણ હરિવરનું સાચું... Gujarati fine tunes and devotional song got permanent impression on her mind. Though not believing in Satsang, she remembered and sang the line unintentioanlly during her householder chores. રે સગપણ હરિવરનું સાચું (Relationship of God is the true and trusted relationship.) this line and it's tune became a habit and she sang it frequently everyday till her death. Though knew nothing, about satsang and Shri Hari, and did nothing in devotional ways, Lord Shri Hari Himself came to her to take her to his abode. Trader-woman looked at the image of Shriji Maharaj and asked politely, 'Maharaj ! I am not your devotee. Why have you come here to escort me ?' Maharaj says 'Oh sin free Lady ! you have remembered well the stanza : રે સગપણ હરિવરનું સાચું and you have sang it repeatedly by heart, therefore, a strong relationship is established between you and me. I have come here to take you to my divine abode on bases of that relationship.' Thus, the soul was emancipated.

Shriji Maharaj has asked his satsangis to live in holy company of the saints. He has asked them to listen to Katha Varta Satsang. He had ordered them to spare 10th or 20th part of their income, within their capacity to donate it to Shri Swaminarayan Bahgwan. This is why the devotees are serving God, the scriptures, Acharayas, the temples and the saints. This is why they donate regularly the Dharmada to the sect and the desha.

Aroma of Satsang

Con. from page 7

Your real being – true entity – is your 'Antahkaran'. Your Antahkaran is the place where I dwell forever. Purity of your Antahkaran' is the purity of your good self. Maintain purity of your Antahkaran. It should be pure and holy. Don't allow gross elements to make it dirty. There shall be no place for me to dwell, if your 'Antahkaran' is spoiled. Where will I live ?'

This is why I asked you to "be kind to us." I desired to you to maintain inner purity of your 'Antahkaran'. Keep it clean and pollution free. I am not away from you. Worldly vision may observe such physical distance, but at innermost you will be there with me by your pure 'Antahkaran'. Ceremonious departure was orgnzied again and a standing ovation was presented by the assembly in form of a oath to maintain purity and sanctity of the Antahkaran. They paid hearty salute to Maharaj and went to their respective towns and village.

The words – Sanctity, purity and Antahkaran were echoing at their heart. Episodes of rice and hidden rocks were enlightening their inner most. Now they were to take good care of their Antahkaran to maintain its, purity and sanctity. They were asked by Maharaj to install his divine image at that sacred place. All were happy and contented.

They were sure and confident, because it was a promise from supreme Lord.

The place of Such Sabhas and dialogues are still there in our satsang to high light promises of Maharaj. Those platforms and canopies teach us to live virtuous life. We feel assuring presence of Maharaj, as and when we visit such place. Visit the Shrine and feel divinity of the atmosphere.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

184th Annual Patotsava of Lord Narnarayandev at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur

The Annual Patotsava of Lord Narnarayandev with Shri Dharmdev Bhaktimata Harikrishan Maharaj and Radha-Krishna Dev was celebrated here (on auspicious 2nd day of March 2006), the second day of the bright half of Falgun), in benign presence of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri, H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasdji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri.

Learned Brahmin priests helped the hosts to conclude auspicity of Poojan Archan of Lord Thakorji. The events were organized early in the morning. H.H. Acharya Maharjshri, H.H. Acharya Shri Tejenraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced the shrine early in the morning. H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharajshri (Vartaldesh) graced the shrine for this special occasion. His holiness joined Dharmkul at the Shrine and did with them the Abhishekam-poojan-Archan of Lord Narnarayandev. Thousands of saints from both the deshas and all big temples were present on this occasion. The saints and devotees were blessed with blissful Darshan of Full-dress (Shangar) Aarti of God.

The events were hosted by Shri Kasturbhai Popatlal Jhinjhuwadia and his family. Host family members have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Poojan-Aarti to the Acharya and Dharmkul. The saints of both the deshas have received 'Vastram' from the Host family.

The saints from Shri Narnarayandev Desh and Shri Lakshminarayan dev Desh were present at this special assembly. The devout aspirants were addressed by the saints of both the Deshas. The Sabha was conducted by Mahant Swami Nirgundasji Swami. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the Satsang at the end of programme.

A sumptuous Annkut of 108 delicacies and sweets was presented to please Supreme Master of Bharat Khanda – Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj. Both the Acharya graced the Shrine and presented Annkut Aarti to Lord Thakorji. The saints and devotees were turned up in thousands from both the deshas. Mahaprasadam was served to all the visitors.

Kothari Swami Dharmprakashdasji, Shastri Golokviharidasji, Kothari Anandprasaddasji, Satyaprakash Swami, Vishwavallabh Swami, Rajendraprasad Swami, S.G. Uttampriya Swami, Brahmvihari Swami and Styaswaroop Swami have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service at the Annakut and other events. - *Satyapraksh Swami*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur Celebrates Shikshapatri Jayanti

Lord Swaminarayan Bahgwan himself wrote Shikshapatri to preach religion and ethical duties to the sect and mankind for their welfare and emancipation. Shikshapatri was written on the 15th day of the bright half of Maha-Vasant Panchami, V.S. 1882.

Shikshasptri Jayanti was celebrated here and a special Satsang was conducted at the prasadi Sabha Mandapam. Thousands of devotees and aspirants have benefited by the special Satsang. Shrimad Shikshapatri Parayan was conducted here and nectar like discourse was delivered by Reader Swami Ghanshyamcharandasji, in presence of Scholar Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji and enlightened saints. Shikshapatri shlokas – in Sanskrit and Gujarati – were read by Swami Ghanshyamcharndasji and were repeated collectively by the saints and devotees. Blissful divinity, filled the environment of the Sabha Mandapam. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri have celebrated the Samaiyas at Muli and Bhuj. - *Kothari Dharmprakashdas*

The tenth annual Patotsava of God at Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Narayanghat

The land of Narayanghat is sacred prasadi of Shriji Mahraj. The land it self is a holy shrine, but to shape it into a place of worship, a splendid temple was built here some ten years ago. This temple in pink stone adorns eye catching sculputaral work. The temple has celebrated tenth annual patotsava of indweller God. Grand celebrations were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Dharmkul. The devout Satsangis and enlightened saints have received inspiration from (Late) Gavaiya Swami Keshavjeevandasji.

The grand event of Patotsava was organized on auspicious fifth day of the dark half of Maha. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the holy place and served Patotsava Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji. Thousands of devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by darshan and participation at the

Patotsava celebrations.

Shri Vidur-niti Parayan (5 days) was conducted on this occasion. The seat of the reader-priest was graced by Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji. The devotees have participated wholeheartedly and have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their selfless service at the temple. the Patotsava events were hosted by (Late) Sakalchand Umedram Patel and his family. Five days Parayan Satsang was hosted by (Late) Chhaganlal Ranchhoddas Jhala and family. Concluding day Thaal-Bhojan with the Swarna Kalash were hosted by (Late) Nathjibhai. Ichchharam Shukla through his – group of disciples and Vithalbhai Somchan Shah (Vakil) with his family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by participating in this hostship – devotees were favoured with the blessing of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. *- Sadhu Purnaprakashdas.*

Feast of Knowledge and Parents Meeting at Sahajanand Gurkul, Asarva

Parents meeting and Gyanotsava was organized here at our Sahajanand Gurukul Asarva, with due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. This establishment is an organ of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur, Ahmedabad.

H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri graced this place and recalled memory of His childhood days at this old abode of Dharmkul.

Pupils from K.G. to class ten have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari and blessings of Elderly Acharya Maharajshri by presenting colourful and knowledgable programme of cultural, Yogic, acrobatic, Raas-Garba, one act play and quiz itmes.

Parents were please with the acitivities and education of this Gurukul. Events were organized by staff and saints at the Gurukul under able guidance from Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji.

- Ramesh Patel

Dhanurmaas Shakotsava and First Annual Patotsava at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Approach)

Dhanurmaas Dhoon sessions were organized daily by the devotees and the saints to please Lord Shri Hari. The devotees were inspired and encouraged by devout saint Mahant Swami Lakshmanjeevandasji. Katha-Varta Satsang was organized to help the devotees in their devotional ways. Residents of Bapunagar have benefited with Dhanurmaas Dhoon and Katha-Varta Sessions.

Mahamantra Dhoon was organized constantly for the five hours duration at 7-30 am on date 8-1-06. the event was organized in memory of (Late) Mother Rukmaniben by her family. Prasadam was distributed at the session.

Grand Shakotsava was organized as per ancient tradition to recall memories of dvine Shakotsava of Loya. The event was celebrated by Mahant Swami in presence of hundreds of saints and devotees.

The first annual patotsava of Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj was organized on auspicious 5th day of February-06. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and served Patotsava Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji.

Group Maha Pooja and Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Parayan (three days) were organized on this occasion. The seat of the reader priest was graced by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji. Satsangis from Bapunagar and other areas have benefiteds these devotional sessions. The Patotsava events were hosted by Harjibhai Valjibhai Mania. H.H. Acharya Maharjshri has blessed the host family for their devotional fervour.

H. H. Acharya Maharajshri blesses his devotees at Gamdi

Gamdi is the blessed Pradadi village of Lord Shri Hari. Lord Shriji Maharaj has graced this village and the houses of his devotees, to sanctify this place by his repeated visits. S.G. Paramhams Swami Anandanand Swami has shawered his hearty blessing on this sacred land and the residents. There is a boon granted by Swami : Whoever breath last at this place shall be consigned to divine abode of Shriji Maharaj. God himself escorts his devotees and Yama dootas are banned on this sacred land. Shri Swaminarayan Mandir at this place was built by Anandanand Swami to open the gates of heaven for the faithful devotees of God. Lord Vireshwar Mahadev and Gamadia Hanumanji wields divine power and astonishing miracles even in this adverse time of Kaliyuga. This place is under control of Jetalpur Dhaam. Devotees are faithful and trustworthy Satsangis of Shri Narnarayandev Desh diocese. Dharmkul of Shri Narnarayandev Peeth is pleased to the Satsang of this village.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has graced this place (25-1-06) and favoured his devotees by invoking deity at Prasadi temple of Varahi Mata. A grand Shoba Yatra was organized at his village to receive H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The events were organized by the saints and devotees under inspiration from S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji and Mahant Swami Shastri Atmaprakashdasji. Shri Jogeshbhai Ramanbhai Patel (Chairman, Temple Renovation

Committee) has sat an ideal in devotional service.

Main-donors Shri Arvindbhai and his sons Shri Manojbhai and Shri Hasmukhbhai have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting poojan-Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Devout Satsaing Shri Jogeshbhai has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by joining them in service to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has favoured his faithful satsnagi Shri Ramanbhai Nathabhai Patel (York Printers) by gracing his house and receiving thaal-meals at his dwelling. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the house of Shri Arvindbhai Bhalabhai prior to his return journey.

Chaloda (Jitba) Dholka Desh

Dhanurmaas Dhoon of the one month duration was organized here daily at the temple to please indweller God Lord Morli Manohardev Harikrishna Maharaj. The concluding session of the Dhanurmaas Dhoon was celebrated in colour of devotion and dedication by the devotees and saints.

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Sirohi (Rajasthan)

Dhanurmaas Dhoon was organized daily in the morning with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The deovtees were inspired and encouraged by Sadhu Aksharprakshdas for this feast of devotion. The sacred month was celebrated by the chants of Maha Mantra Dhoon. - *Chhogalal*

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Por

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was organized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. Saintly disciple – Swami Dharmjivandasji and Kothari Parshad DigamberBhagat were inspired and encouraged by S.G. Shasti Swami Harikrishnadasji to organize feast of eternal knowledge in blissful memory of the saints (Late) Swami Trikamcharandasji and (Late) Swami Govindprasadasji. Bhagwat Parayan (23-1-06 to 29-1-06) was conducted at Shri Swamianrayan Mandir, Por. The seat of the reader-priest was graced by Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji. The Samhita (text) was read jointly by S.G. Swami Hariswaroopdasji, Shastri Swami Hariprasadasji (Junagadh) and Shastri Swami Satyaswaroopdasji (Surendranagar).

H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri, H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri and Respected Gadiwalashri (both) were present on this occasion to favour Satsang at Por.

The Prasadi itmes received from his traditional line of Gurus, were presented to H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri for Shri Swaminarayan Museum, by devout saints S.G. Swami Dharmjeevandasji. The prasadi items include the image of Shri Hari and a pair of foot prints. The Parayan Sessions were concluded most ceremoniously by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and hearty blessings were conveyed to Swami Dharmjeevandasji.

S.G. Celibate priest Rajeshwaranandji, S.G. Swami Devprakashdasji (Scheme Committee), Swami Jayprakashdasji, Kothari Digambar Bhagat, Swami Haricharandasji and saints have earned the favour of Shriji Maharaj by their service at the concluding session. The Sabha was conducted by P.P. Swami (Junior). The saints and Parsahdas were come from all major temples. The devotees from Zundal, Dhamasana, Unava, Chandkheda, Ambapur, Vavol and Kudasan have benefited by this feat of Ultimate knowledge.

Bhakta Chintamani Parayan at the Prasadi Village – Gavada

`Bhakta Chintamani (miracles) Parayan of three days duration was orangized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The events were organized in memory of Devotee (Late) Rukmaniben Revabhai, with due inspiration and encouragement from S.G. P.P. Swami (Junior). The seat of the reader priest was greaced by Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the concluding session and blessed the host family and devotees at Gavada. The events were organized by the sons of Revabhai Patel, namely M/s. Kanjibhai, Ramanbhai, Jayantibhai and Rameshbhai. S.G. Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ex-Mahant, Chhapaiya Temple), Celibate-priest Rajeshwaranand Swami, S.G. Swami Devprakashdasji (Scheme Committee) and Shastri Swami Purnaprakashdasji have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their presence at the Katha Parayan-Satsang.

Dhanurmaas Dhoon at Dholka Temple

Early morning Dhanurmaas Dhoon were organized daily at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Dholka with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Daily Dhoon sessions of the Mahamantra, were organized by the saints under able guidance from Mahant Swami. S.G. Jagatprakashdasdji and S.G. Mahant Swami Vishnuprasaddasji. The sessions were conducted by both the Mahant Swamis.

Shri Prabha Hanuman Mandir Jamiyatpura

Annual Patotsava was celebrated here in benign

presence of Prasadi image of Marutinandan. The events were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shrimad Satsnagi Jivan Parayan was organized on this occasion. The seat of the reader priast was graced by Sadhu Purnaprakashdasji. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the concluding session and celebrated Shakotsava by flavouring the vegetable by his lotus like hands. Thousands of devotees have benefited by this Mahaprasadam of Shakotsava.

- Sadhu Vijayprakashdas

Gozaria

Grand Shakotsava was organized here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Mahrajshri. Festivities were inspired and guided by S.G. Swami Satysankalpddasji (Vadnagar) with due participation from Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal. The devotees from Mau, Samau, Soja, Balva and Visnagar were present on this festive occasion. Devotees Shri Ghanshyambhai (Head Master) has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting the events as the principal host. Enlightening discourses were delivered by Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji (Mahant, Himatnagar Temple) and Shastri Swami Uttampriyadasji (Mahant Swami, Mehsana Temple) to explain glory and majesty of Shri Hari and Dharmkul.

Shakotsava at Vehlal Temple

Festivae Shakotsava was organized here in benign presence of Lord Thakorji. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this prasadi place and blessed his devotees by flavouring vegetable by his blessed hands. Thousands of devotees were come to the temple to have a darshan of this divine events. The glory and majesty of Shakotsava was explained to the devotees by S.G. Saint Ghanshyamprakashdasji (Narayanghat).

- Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal Vehlal

Centenary celebrations and Patotsava at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Soja

Week long celebrations were organized here to celebrate century of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Silver Jubilee Patotsava of the temple for female devotees, renovation of Prasadi canopy and invocation of Lord Marutinandan at the new temple of Hanumanji. The events were organized with the due blessing of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri.

The devout hosts were inspired and encouraged by S.G. Haricharndasji and Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji for these grand events and Shri Ram – Parayan (5-2-06 to 11-2-06), Shri Maruti Yagya, Mahabhishekam, Annakut, Mahaprasadam, Blood donation camp, anti intoxication camp and cultural events were organized on this occasion. The seat of the reader-priest of Ramkatha was graced by Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji. The Samhita (text) was read collectively by the saints S.G. Sunilbhai Shastri, Swami Hariprasaddasji and S.G. Purani Hariswaroopdasji. The devotees from this village have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting various events.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the concluding session of Parayan Satsang, concluded the parayana and blessed his devotees. His holiness served Maha Aarti to Lord Thakorji and invoked Lord Hanumanji. His holiness graced, thereafter the Prasadi canopy and installed foot prints of Lord Shriji Maharaj and served Aarti to divine foot-prints. Special Satsang was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha and received Aarti Poojan served by host families. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri favoured the Satsangis by his benign presence at the Sabha. Respected Gadiwalashri graced the occasion to bless here female devotees. Mahant Swami Rameshwardasji of Jagannathji temple was present on this occasion to bless the aspirants. The Sabha was conducted by S.G. P.P. Swami (Junior). S.G. Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, S.G. Swami Devprakashdasji (Scheme Committee), Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Swami Balswaroopdasji, Kothari Digambar Bhagat and Swami Jayprakashdasji were present at the concluding ceremonies. The satsang in this area has benefited by these religious events.

- Celibate Priest Rajeshwaranandji

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Bapupura

Silver Jubilee Patotsava Abhishekam was presented here to Lord Thakorji at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (for male and female), with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. The devotees and saints wre encouraged and inspired by Swami Shrivallabhdasji (Mansa) and S.G. P.P. Swami, for these celebrations.

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan (11-2-06 to 15-2-06), Maha Vishnu Yaag and Mahabhishekam were organized on this occasion. The seat of the reader-priest was graced by Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji. The devotees were favoured by the presence of entire Dharmkul.

H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced Bapupura. A grand welcome

procession was organized by the devotees to receive H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. His holiness graced the Shoba Yatra and blessed the residents of Bapupura. His holiness graced thereafter both the temples concluded respective Vishnu Yaag and presented Aarti to Parayan and Maha Yaag.

A special Sabha was organized on this occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the assembly and received Poojan Aarti served by the hosts Shri Joitabhai Hathibhai Chaudhari, Bhikhabhai Joitabhai Chaudhari, Ramanbhai Mohanbhai Chaudhari and Somabhai Govabhai Chaudhari, Shri Jesangbhai and local Sangis have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their services towards the temple.

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Nava Vadaj

A festive Shakotsava was organized here in benign presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the festival and added flavour in the vegetable by his lotus like hands. The event was hosted jointly by Shri Bhikhabhai Govindbhai Parmar and Valjibhai Dharamshibhai Gangani.

Occasional Sabha was addressed by Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji, Swami Shrijiprakashdasji and Swami Satyaprakashdasji to explain glory and majesty of Shakotsava. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the Sabha at the end of discounses. Vasant Panchmi Shikshapatri Jayanti was celebrated at the temple by reciting Shikshapatri Shlokas in benign presence of Shriji Maharaj.

Jivrajpark Temple

Grand Shakotsava was organized here (4-2-06) in benign presence of Lord Shriji Maharaj. H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple and flavoured the vegetable by his blessed hands. The devotees from Satellite, Vasna, Paldi and other areas were present besides the local devotees from Jivraj-Vejalpur.

Himatnagar Temple

A Pad Yatra of sixty kilometer was organized from Hmatnagar to do darshan of Torda Temple. The devotees were inspired and encouraged by S.G. Mahant Swami Anandjivandasji for this religious walk of sixty Kilometer. The Pada Yatris walked with the chants of Maha-Mantra and halted at Jalaram Temple Dhuleta for a overnight stay. There they were served with Thaal meals hosted by Amichandbhai Prajapati. Next day Thaal-meals were served at Torda Temple by Shri Ramanbhai Patel. Festive Rasoi was served to the saints at Torda Temple. the devotee were received with devotional pleasure by the Mahant Swami of Torda Temple.

Shakotsava at Dehgam Temple

Shri Swaminarayan Satsang Mandal of Dehgam has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by organizing festivities of Shakotsava at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Dehgam. Sumptuous sacred Mahaprasadam of Shakotsava was served to all the devotees. *- Kothari Arvindbhai H. Amin.*

MULI REGION

Vasant Panchami Samaiya at Muli Dhaam

Lord Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj dwelled at Muli Dhaam have received Annual patotsava Abhishekam on auspicious fifth day of the bright half of Maha, this year. This was festive day of Vasant Panchami. The sixth and the seventh descendant sons of Shriji Maharaj – H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H .Lalji Maharajshri graced the celebrations and served Patotsava Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji, amidst the chants of vedic hymns. The devotees from Zalwar Halar and other districts of Saurashtra and Gujarat were come to the temple to celebrate the events. Poojari Swami Jayprakashdjasji and the group of the saints have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service at the Patotsava.

A special Sabha was organized on this occasion to receive blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The Sabha was addressed by reader saints S.G. Ramkrishnadasji and S.G. Ghanshyamprakashdasji (Narayanghat) to enlighten the devotees. Scholarly discourses were delivered by them to explain glory and majesty of Dev. Acharya, Mulidhaam and S.G. Brahmanadn Swami, H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the devotees for their devotional fervour and faith.

The pleasant season of spring was welcomed with colours when H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and his saints and devotees assembled at splendid court yard of the temple. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri favoured the satsang by sprinkling colour of roses and saffron. The memorable event of joy and bliss enlightened the devotees about the treachings of Shikshapatri. Mahaprasadam was received by all the visitors and Satsangis.

The events were organized by the saints and devotees under guidance from Mahant Swami Lakshmiprasaddasji. Kothari J.P. Swami, Bhanu Swami and others have earned the pleasrue of Shri Hari by their service at the temple.

- Shastri Purnaprakashdas, Narayanghat.

OVERSEAS

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Chicago (ISSO) Celebrates Shikshapatri Jayanti

Shrimad Shikshapatri Jayanti was celebrated here by the saints and devotees with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri . the devotees were inspired and encouraged by Mahant Swami Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji to celebrate this grand events. The scripture of Shikshaaptri was recited on this occasion and Poojan Archan and obeisance were served to the sacred scripture by the satsangis and aspirant. Traditional festivity of Shakotsava was organized at the temple to remember Loya episode. Image of Lord thakorji was shown adding flavour to the traditional vegetable. Devotional music was organized on this occasion by Ochchhavia Mandal and Sri Rajubhai, Shri Vedantbhai, Shri Nareshbhai, Shri Nana Bhagat, Shri Takorbhai, Mota Bhagat, Shri Vishnubhai, Shri Dhirubhai and others. The glory and majesty of Shakotsava was explained to the devotees by S.G. Poojari Swami and S.G. Ghanshyam Swami, The aspirants were requested by Shri Jagdishbhai to donate to the up coming religious project of Shri Swaminarayan Musuem. The devotees have contributed liberally towards this festive events. The Satsang at this place progresses steadily with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, L.A. (ISSO) Celebrates Shikshapatri Jayanti

A special Sabha was organized at the temple to celebrate Vasant Panchami – Shikshapatri Jayanti. The events were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. The Dhoon-Kirtans were presented to please Lord Shri Hari and the scripture of Shri Shikshapatri was recited collectively by the saints and devotees. The glory and majesty of Shri Shikshapatri was explained to the Satsangis by Mahant Swami Keshavcharandasji and Swami Ghanshyam Swami.

Shakotsava was celebrated as per convention on 12th day of February 2006. Lord Thakorji manifested himself flavouring traditional vegetable at the inner temple. Visiting aspirants and Satsangis were favoured with this blissful darshan of God. Glory and majesty of the Shakotsava in Loya Chapter were explained to the devotees by the enlightened saints. Maha Mantra Dhoon was served to please Lord Thakorji and Thaal Aarti were presented to God. The devotees have earned the pleasue of Shri Hari by their service at the temple. the events are being celebrated in devotional fervour with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Washington (D.C.) – ISSO Chapter

Monthly Satsang sessions are being organized regularly with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Dhoon, Kirtans Nitya-Niyam and Thaal Aarti were presented to please Lord Thakorji at the Sabha dated 28-1-06. A large number of devotees have participated in this Satsang. Satsang activities are progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Sydney (ISSO, Australia Chapter)

Fortnightly Satsang Sabhas are being organized on the second and the fourth Sundays of each month. The Sabha dated 4-12-05 was hosted by Shri Anjaleshbhai Patel C.D.'s of Shri Swaminarayan serial are being exhibited at these Sabhas to sing praise of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Shri Vachanamrits were recited by Shri Vraj Maru at the Sabha dated 18-12-05. The first Annual Patotsava was celebrated (2-1-06) here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharay Maharajshri. Mahabhishekam of sixteen sacred objects was served to Lord Harikrishna Maharaj. Devotee Shri Birenbhai Desair has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting this religious event. Majesty and glory of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan was explained to the devotees by Shri Amrit Dada. A large number of devotees have earned the favour of Maharaj by Darshan of this grand event and their devotion at the temple. Satsang activities are progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Tejas B. Patel

AKSHARVAAS

Aslali : Devout soul Harshadbhai (Son of SHriJasubhai Patel, priest Shri Swaminarayan Mandir) passed away (27-1-06) to Akshardham amidst chants of Maha Mantra.

Ahmedabad : Sarojben Ramanlal Parikh (Antarsuba wala) passed away (16-1-06) to Akshardham amidst chants of Maha Mantra.

Ahmedabad (Bapunagar) : Fulabhai Vallabhbhai Paghdal passed away (26-1-06) to Askarhdma amidst chants of Maha Mantra.

Himatnagar : Jayantibhai P. Modi passed away (16-2-06) to Akshardham amidst chants of Maha-Mantra.





H.H. Lalji Maharajshri blessed the reader-priest at the Parayan Satsang organized by Kankaria Temple.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri invoked God at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Bhaktinagar (Teh : Halvad)



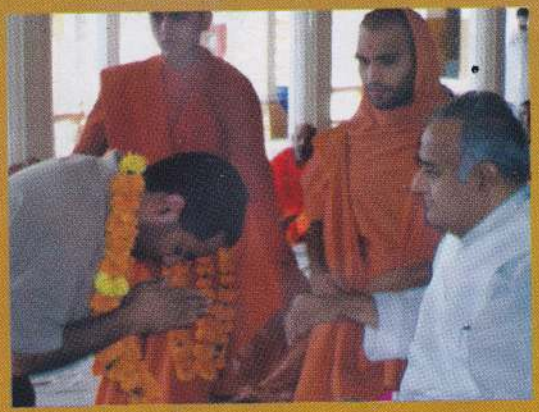
Devotees present Poojan Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri on initiation of Guru-Mantra at Mehsana Temple.



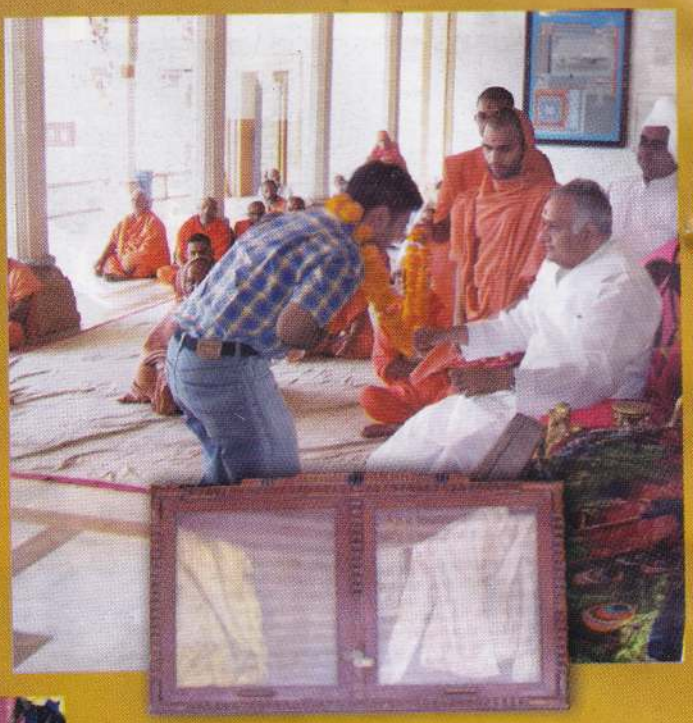
H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed Shobha Yatra at Por.



Katha-Parayan session at Por Temple.

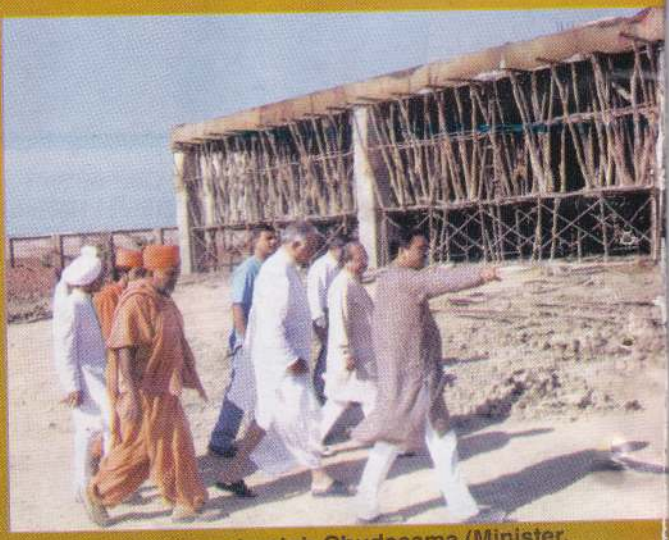


The 'Prasadi' items treasured by (Late) Shri Navinchandra Sheth and his successors are being presented to H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and Shri Swaminarayan Museum, by Shri Pranava (Gopala) and Shri Darshan (worthy sons of Late Harishbhai Sheth).



Eminent Author and faithful Satsangi Shri Raghuvir Chaudhari presents donation for Shri Swaminarayan Museum.





Shri Bhupendrasinh Chudasama (Minister, Gujarat State) inspects site of Shri Swaminarayan Museum, in holy company of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.



Sadhu Dharmjeevandasji at Por presents Prasadi attires of Lord Shriji Maharaj. The saint has received those item from lineage of Guru.

Praful Kharsani