SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

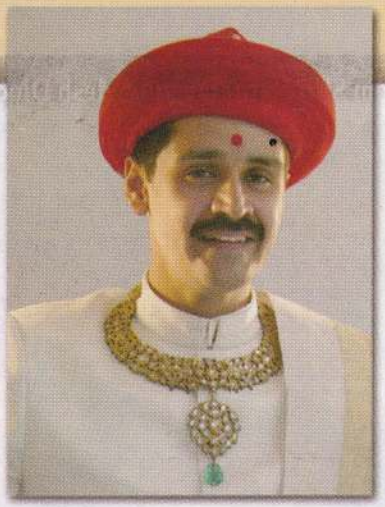
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His Holiness Acharya Maharaj
Shri Koshalendraprasadji Pande

દિપાવલી
નૂતનવર્ષ - સં. 2053

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Shree Swaminarayan Mandir,
Ahmedabad-1
Tel: 079 2212 3835

Shree Swaminarayan Bagh,
Ahmedabad-52
Tel: 079 2747 8070



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

CONTROLLING EDITORS & PUBLISHERS
Shastri Swami Nirgundasji
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Editorial

The soul captures and defeats the inner enemies like the anger, greed and carnal desire, when a soul installs the devotion of God at his heart. The man becomes a demon by the force of these inner enemies. There will be no demonic actions on the earth if captured those inner enemies. In contemporary world, the devilish actions of the inner enemies have crossed all the limits in the world of crime and ruthlessness. The spiritual strength and supportive refuge are a must to defeat the inner enemies. The soul earns the spiritual strength by his devotion and meditation of God. The victory on these ten inner enemies is celebrated as Vijaya Dashami. God manifests at the heart of the devotee when a devotee defeats the inner enemies. The soul shall be victorious on the day of Vijaya dashami, if he meditated and worshipped for the nine days of Navratri. To defeat the inner enemies means to clean the heart. God resides at the pure and clean heart. Our hearts and souls have become clean and pure on this auspicious day of the Vijaya Dashahara by the grace of Shri Hari.The another form of Shri Hari has manifested in this holy fellowship on this auspicious day. The satsang has been benefited by the Darshan of Shri Hari's own form- H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. We devotees should earn the pleasure of Shri Hari by our hearty salute to His Holiness.

We convey'Jai Shri Swaminarayan' to our satsangi readers, writers and to the world wide satsang, on these auspicious days of Dipavali and New-year.

Shastri Swami Nirgundas
Editor
Shri Swaminarayan.



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

September-2006

1. Graced Satsang Sabha organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Dangarva. The Sabha was hosted by Shri Mulchandbhai Keshavlal Patel.

3. Graced inauguration of the Shri Hari Auto Centre (Prop: Jatinbhai S Thakkar).

5. Graced the house of Madhuben Babulal Patel, Narayanpura,Ahmedabad.

10. Graced the place of Shri Dashrathbhai K. Patel, Nirnaynagar, Ahmedabad.

11. Graced 'Spand Ceramics' (Pro: Vinodbhai), Sola, Ahmedabad.

12. Graced Maha-pooja served at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir,Kalol (Gandhinagar). Graced presence at the house of Shri Rasikbhai S. Patel, Kalol. Graced presence at the Mahapooja organized at the house of Shri Ramanlal M. Patel (Vihar wala). Served Aarti to Lord Thakorji at the new Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad. Graced the house of Shri Rajanikant A. Patel, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad.

16. Graced the house of Shri Bharatbhai C. Bhavsar with the houses of the other devotees at C.T.M. Ahmedabad.

17. Graced the Satsang Sabha organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Jivraj Park, Ahmedabad.

22. to 25. Graced the Patotsava festivities organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Badrinarayan

28. Chaired the special assembly to wish the pilgrims of Kailash-Mansarovar-pilgrimage led by H.H.Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. Graced the inauration ceremonies of the new office of Shri Ratibhai K. Patel, (Committee member), S.G.Highway, Ahmedabad. Graced presence at the Maha-pooja organized at the residence of Shri Dashrathbhai J. Patel (Vadu wala), Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad.

30. Graced the inauguration ceremonies of 'Shivam Estate,' (Prop: Jairajbhai M. Sheth) Sarkhej, Ahmedabad. Graced the Maha-pooja rituals organized on inauguration of the shop of Shri Dharmabhai P. Patel,Kalol. Graced the house of Shri Dalsukhbhai V. Devani, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad.

DIWALI PRASADAM FROM LORD SHRI HARI

On the thirtieth day of the month of Ashwin of Samvat 1877, Shri Sahajanand Maharaj was seated on a specially designed wooden bedstead placed on a large platform near the royal court in the royal residence of Shri Vasta Khachar at Kariyani. The day was the festive day of Diwali. The lighted lamps were arrenged decoratively around the platform. He had put on trousers made of red velvet with design in gold embroidered on them. He had put on a tunic also made of black velvet over which were embroidered the words 'Narnarayan[2]', 'Swaminarayan[2]' with golden thread. A dark red turban of gold fabric was placed on his head. A rich garment of blue colour was tied about his weist. He was honoured with profuse garlanding of yellow flowers. Munis and Bhaktas from near and far places were assembled before him.

A devotee from Div[3]-port was present in this assembly. He requested Maharaj to allow him to offer Pooja[9]. Where upon ,Shriji Maharaj came down from the platform and accepted the Pooja offered by the devotee. He offered Maharaj a pair of wooden sandals, a decorated yellow umbrella and precious clothes. Maharaj then mounted the pedestal and took the seat.

Then addressing the assembly, Shriji Maharaj said, "For past many years, devotees have offered valuable clothes, ornaments worth thousands of rupees but I have not accepted them. Today I am extremely pleased with him and accepting this by going towards him. In the meantime, Dinanath Bhatt entered the assembly,touched the lotus feet of the Lord and took his seat. Shriji Maharaj, looking at him, immediately gave him all the valuables that he had just been offered.

Then Muktanandji Swami asked, "Oh Maharaj! What virtues are those that invite the pleasure of God on a devotee ?"

Replying the question,Shriji Maharaj said,"A devotee who is devoid of the evil instincts of passion, anger, covetousness, lies, ego and envy and who offeres worship to God always earns the pleasure of God. Out of all this evil instincts, Matsar (jealousy) expressed in enigmatic terms- is very subtle. It is the cause of all other evils.

Therefore,Vyasji[4] in Shrimad Bhagwat[5] has hailed those saints who are devoid of this subtle instinct of Matsar as 'Bhagwats'[5]. This instinct is too subtle to be eradicated."

Then Brahmanand Swami asked, "How can this evil instinct be eradicated ?"

Shriji Maharaj then said, "One who treads the path of saintliness and imbibe the virtues of saintliness can eradicate this evil. But for one who does not thus care to imbibe these virtues, it is difficult for him to eradicate this evil."

Again Muktanand Swami asked, "How does this evil instinct gets generated ?"

Shriji Maharaj said, "Wealth,women and sumptous food augment the evil instinct of Matsar. One who has no such involvement has ego which generates this evil instinct of Matsar. One who possesses this evil instinct must have been hurt even at my giving away these precious clothes to Shri Dinanath Bhatt. But such a devotee would not pause to think that it is really out of deep devotional instinct that these devotees have brought such precious clothes for Maharaj, and again it is a great act of philanthropy on the part of Maharaj that he has given away these clothes to Dinanath Bhatt. He would for no ostensible reason feel hurt or belittled.

As for me the evil instinct of passion,anger,covetousness,ego,envy and Matsar have absolutely no place in my heart. Again the seductive Panchvishayas[6]-the words, touch, charm, taste and smell are extremely repulsive to me and they have not the slightest attraction for me. No doubt, I accept the various sumptuous offerings offered to me by my devotees, but it is merely to augment the intensity of their devotion to me. For my personal comforts I require nothing. Food, drinks, clothes that I accept, I accept merely for the fulfilment of the wishes of my saints and devotees. I would immediately reject them, if within me a craving for them arises. I sustain my body not with any personal motive but for the well being of the Satsangis[7]. Mulji Brahmchari[8] and Somla Khachar[8] who are my close associates are fully aware of my natural leanings. They have realized that, "Maharaj has no attachment for anyone except the devotees."

I dedicate myself completely to ones who are fully dedicated to God by their mind, speech and body. Therefore, I am fully attached to the devotees of God only, without whom the most enticing objects of the fourteen Lokas have the value of a blade of grass to me. A devotee who offers consecrated devotion to God is never allured by the seductive objects of the world. He would try to sustain his body by such ordinary means and would discard the enticing objects with a detached mind. His is therefore the dedicated devotion.

Thus Ends Vachanamrit : Kariyani - 6

भावबुभुक्षा

डॉ. वाचस्पति मिश्र
(प्रधानाचार्य)

भिखारीदासः - अरे गोवर्धनराम ! अद्य प्रातः प्रातः एव कस्य उत्सवस्य आरम्भः अस्ति ? कथं वृहत् महोत्सवः अस्ति वा विवाहप्रसंग अस्ति ?

गोवर्धनरामः - अरे भिखारीदासः ! भवते स्मरणं नास्ति ? अधुना अस्माकं ग्रामे अनंकोटि ब्रह्मांडस्य अधिपतिः भगवान श्री स्वामिनारायणः विराजते यः स्ववचनामृतेन असंख्यजीवान् तृप्तिं कारयति । एतादृशं परब्रह्मपरमात्मानं स्वामिनारायणं श्वः एव अत्रत्याःग्रामस्थाःजनाः अनेकैः पक्वान्नव्यञ्जनैः तृप्तिं कारयिष्यन्ति ।

तुलजारामः - आम् भिखारीदासः ! सत्यम् - सत्यम् अस्ति । आगामी कालः अस्माकं कृते अतीव स्वर्णस्य अस्ति । आगामी कालः अर्थात् मम सदृशानां बहुकालात् साधनापरायणानां प्रतीक्षायाः अंतिमः दिवसः अस्ति । श्वः तु स्वयं श्रीहरिः अस्माकं अन्नं भुक्त्वा सकल ब्रह्माण्डस्थजनान् तृप्तिं कारयिष्यति । येन वयं सकल ब्रह्माण्डस्थजीवानां भोजनपुण्यस्य कलं प्राप्स्यामः ।

आशजीपटेल - अयि भो ! आगामीदिवसः तु आनन्दस्य उत्साहस्य दिवसः अस्ति अतः आगच्छतु, आगच्छतु वयमपि भगवतः सपर्यायाम् दत्तावधानाः भविष्यामः ।

रतनीया - अरे मंगलिया ! पश्यतु पश्यतु एते कीदृशाः मूर्खाः सन्ति ? स्वामिनारायण सदृशस्य साधोः पश्चात् कीदृशं मूर्खायमाणाः संजाताः ज्ञानं नास्तिः तेन स्वामिनारायणेन तेभ्यः न जाने किम् भोजितम् ।

मंगलियो - अरे रतनिया ! त्वयि ज्ञानं अस्ति ? स्वामिनारायणस्तु अतिकठिनमपि भूतं वशीकरोति इतोप्यधिकं किं ब्रूमः स तु महान् तांत्रिकः अस्तिः येन यम् सः पश्यति स वशीभवति - अतः इतः प्लायामः अन्यथा यंत्र मंत्र द्वारा वशीकरिष्यति ।

जीवणभक्तः - अरे देवि ! ग्रामस्य प्रायः सर्वे जनाः नानाविध पक्वान्नेन भगवन्तं श्री स्वामिनारायणं तर्पयितुं गच्छन्ति ।

पत्नी - पतिदेव ! एतस्मिन् विषये भवन्तः किम् विचारयन्ति ? अधुना विचारस्य अवसरः एव नास्तिः त्वरयतु भवान्, त्वरयतुभवान् ।

जीवणभक्त - अरे देवि ! अहं तु अतीव निर्धनः अस्मि यत् अर्पणार्थं गच्छामि ।

पत्नी - यदि भवदीया आज्ञा चेद्, तर्हि शाकं मठरोटकं च भगवदर्थं निर्मापयामि ।

जीवणभक्त - अरे देवि ! तत्र अनेकविध भोज्य व्यज्जनानि भविष्यंति, अनेके धनपत्तयः तत्र आगमिष्यन्तिः अस्माकं शाकमठरोटकयोश्च का गणना ? स्वामिनारायणः तु तस्य अवलोकनं अपि न करिष्यति ।

पत्नी - पतिदेव ! भगवान् भावनायाः बुभुक्षितः अस्ति । पंपा सरोवरे निवसती - रामं प्रतीक्षमाणा च शबरी भावनया उच्छिष्टं बदरीफलं कथं न भोजितवती ?

"यादृशी भावना यस्य सिद्धिर्भवति तादृशी ।"

स्वयं भगता कृष्णेनापि गीतायां उक्तम् - यत्

"पत्रं पुष्पं फलं तोयं यो मे भक्त्या प्रयच्छति ।
तदहं भक्त्युपहृतं अश्नामि प्रयतात्मनः ॥"

जीवणभक्तः - अरे देवि ! तर्हि भगवान् अवश्यं अस्माकं श्रद्धया अर्पितं भोजनं ग्रहिष्यति । त्वरय, त्वरय, अहमपि अन्येषां सदृशं भगवते स्वामिनारायणाय भोजनं कारयिष्यामि ।

(यथा- अन्ये स्वकीयं भोजनं नीत्वा आगताः तथैव जीवणभक्तः अपि तेषां पृष्ठ भागे भोजनं गृहित्वा स्थितः अस्ति ।) (जीवणभक्तः "मनसि विचारयति")

"अहो ! एतादृशानां धनिकानां बहुविधनिर्मितपक्वान्नं विहाय भगवान स्वामिनारायणः मम शाक-मठरोटकं च स्वीकरिष्यति ? नहि नहि स्वामिनारायण भगवान् तु भावनां जानाति अतः भावना प्रधानत्वात् , मम शुद्ध भावं ज्ञात्वा अवश्यमेव मम भोजनं ग्रहिष्यति । नहि... नहि... बहुदूरम् । अस्मि, माम् कथं स पश्यति ? नहि... नहि... स तु अन्तर्यामि अस्ति । केनचित् कविना सत्यं उक्तम् -

"तन की जाने मन की जाने जाने चित्त की चोरी ।
इनके आगे क्या छिपाये जिनके हाथ मेंजीवनदोरी ॥"

अन्तर्यामि मम प्रभुः अतीव दयालुः अस्ति । निश्चितमेव मम सम्मुखी भूत्वा मे भोजनं ग्रहिष्यति ।

(आश्चर्यं) "भगवान स्वामिनारायणः सभातः उत्थित्वा"

भ.स्वा.ना. - अरे जीवणभक्त ! मठरोटकं दीयताम् । (सभी आश्चर्यचकित हो जाते है) (श्रीहरि मठरोटक तथा सागखाकर) अरे जीवणभक्त ! मठरोटक शाकस्य च कीदृशः स्वादः ? अद्यावधिः बहुव्यज्जनानि मया भुक्तानि एतादृशः स्वादः कदापि न प्राप्तः । एतादृश आस्वादः सुवासिनी भ्रातृजायायाः भोजने नासीत् । भक्तराज ! त्वदीयं भोजनं भुक्त्वा अत्यानन्दितः अस्मि । अद्यारभ्य तव दारिद्रयं गतम् भवदीय गृहे अष्टसिद्धि नवनिधिश्च सर्वदा अखण्डरुपेण स्थिता भविष्यति ।

ब्रह्मानंद स्वामी - अरे महाराज ! मठरोटकं भोजने गरिष्ठम् भवति अन्यच्च अर्धदग्धं अस्तिः रात्रौ उदरे पीडा भविष्यति, तदर्थं मूलजीब्रह्मचारिणे ददातु भवान्ः अवशिष्टः प्रसादः मह्यम् यच्छतु ।

श्रीहरिः - नहि नहि अस्मात् एकभागमपि कस्मै न दास्यामि । स्वामिन् ! नाहं भोजनं करोमि, अपितु जीवणभक्तस्य प्रेमस्मकं भोजनं स्वीकरोमि ।

ब्रह्मानंदजी - अरे आनंदानंदजी ! भवन्तः एव यथोचितं उपायं कुर्वन्तुं इत्थं प्रशंसायां सम्पूर्णं अपक्वान्नं भोक्ष्यति चेत् - रात्रौ जागरणं अस्माकं निश्चितमेव ।

वैष्णवानंदजी - आम् आम् ब्रह्मानंद स्वामी सत्यं वदति भवान् अद्यतः दशदिवसात् प्राक्मठरोटकं मया भुक्तं - अधुनापि कष्टं अनुभूयते । ब्रह्मानंद स्वामी ! भवान् एव महाराजानां हस्तात् रोटकं गृहातु ।

(ब्रह्मानंद स्वामी उत्थित्वा भगवत् हस्तात् रोटकं ग्रहीतुं हस्तौ प्रसारयति - तत्क्षणे आकाशात् इन्द्रः पक्षिस्मीभूय रोटकं ग्रहीत्वा अदृष्टः जातः ।)

ब्रह्मानंदजी - अरे महाराज ! अयं कः भाग्यशाली आसीत् ? श्रीहरिः अयं तुं स्वयमेव देवराज इन्द्रः आसीत् । य) सहस्त्राधिक वर्षात् मम प्रसादस्याग्रही आसीत् । अद्य तस्य पुण्योदयः यातः तेन अस्माकं प्रसादः ग्रहीतः ।

(साकं सर्वे वदन्ति) - सत्यं उक्तं अस्ति यत् -

"भगवतः भोजनस्य बुभुक्षा नास्ति, अपितु भावस्य बुभुक्षा अस्ति ।"

सर्वे गायन्ति

"स्नातं चन्दनचर्चितं निजजनैः पुष्पस्त्रजालङ्कृतं
प्रातः सूर्यमयूखसेवितमुखं श्रीचन्द्रशालोपरि ।
धृत्वा रोटकमेकपाणितलके भङ्क्त्वान्यहस्तेन तं,
भुञ्जानं प्रविलोक्य सेवकगणान् वन्दे सदा स्वामिनम् ॥"

SHRI HARI GRACES SHIYANI

- Chandrakant M.Pathak

Shri Hari stops at the village outskirts of Shiyani and thinks, whether to visit the village or not? As soon he contemplated, he found Shivram Bhatt and Bhimji Vora coming to him.

'Oh Maharaj! Oh God! When have you come?' They inquired in astonishment paid hearty salute by prostrating their person at the feet of Shriji maharaj. They then prayed to Maharaj to grace the village and bless the devotees.

'Where should I camp with this large retinue of the horse riders, if graced this village to bless our faithful satsangis?'

They prayed with folded hands,'Oh Maharaj! The house of Megha Patel is quite spacious among the village houses and there is enough space and fodder for the horses. However, if you please, you may grace any dwelling of your choice to give devotional pleasure to your devotees.'

Shriji Maharaj graced the house of Megha Patel. There was no limit to the devotional pleasure of Megha Patel. He arranged a clean and comfortable seat and with the due decorum, he escorted Maharaj to the seat. Shriji Maharaj graced the seat and blessed the devotee. Megha Patel arranged accordingly for the camp of the saints,Parshadas and the accompanying devotees.The horses were taken to the spacious stable and served with fodder and nutritious cattle feed meant for this special breed.

Megha Patel then came to Maharaj and prayed, 'Maharaj! My Lord! Please feel comfortable and stay with us. Please grant us the permission to arrange feast-meals for your worthy self and the retinue.'

Shriji maharaj said, 'Bhagat! It is good if we have the meals, either at the house of Bhimji Vora or at the place of Bhattji. They both have invited us before. I am camping here at your spacious house to accommodate my large retinue of the horse riders, saints and the devotees.'

Megha Patel prayed, 'Maharaj! You are most welcome at this hut of your devotee. Please, favour us with your consent to the feast meals at this place.' Meghji Patel insisted repeatedly for a favour. Shriji Maharaj pleased to his devotee and said, 'Bhagat! I can not hurt your devotional feelings, however, as the retinue is too large to accommodate, I will suggest you to serve simple meals, instead of a lofty feast.'

Megha Patel insisted with devotion, 'Maharaj! No compromise with the quality of the meals. Please extend your consent for a lofty dish of sweets and meals. We will feel obliged by having prasadi from you.'

Shriji Maharaj fulfilled the wish of his faithful devotee and consented to have lofty feast

at the house of Megha Patel. A group of expert celibate saints took charge of cooking and formed a temporary kitchen to cook special dishes for the guests and the host. Megha Patel arranged proper supply of the cooking material. The celibates were very fast at cooking. They cooked the dishes swiftly. The mouth watering flavours of the cooking, frying and flavouring, filled the environment. Mahanubhavanand Swami came to the seat of Shriji Maharaj when well cooked mixture was ready to receive butter oil to shape it into the laddus. Swami inquired with them, 'Where is Patala?' The Kathi devotees looked at him in astonishment and inquired curiously among themselves about the strange behavior of Swami. One among the Kathi devotees said to the Swami, 'Swami! How could you expect any patala at this

place? This room is not a dining place.' Shriji Maharaj said, 'Swami! What do you want to do with a patala? Why you want it?' Swami prayed, 'Maharaj! The material is ready to make the laddus. Now we want gur and ghee to cast the laddus. Patala may go and bring the gur and ghee to make the laddus.' Shriji Maharaj laughed at the innocence of the swami and said, 'Then why are you saying Patala patala?

Say 'Patel.' A patala is a wooden seat and a Patel is a professional agriculturist. There is vast difference between these two. All were amused by such fun. Meghji Patel was there to listen to the nectar like discourses of Shri Hari. Meghji Patel went in hurry to ask his wife to arrange for the pots of butter oil. He went to the inner room and said, 'Listen to me. The saints have come to get the butter oil to make the laddus. Arrange a few pots for them.' She retorted in rebuke, 'You will not get gur or ghee for the sadhus. Not only you, but there are many others, who are the Satsangis. Contact the others among the satsangis and ask them to bring the ghee and gur for the laddus. Be wise in donating the things and save enough for your house, don't empty it like a fool. I am your wife and as a house wife, I have to take good care of your householder duties in management of the house.'

Meghji Patel was shocked by such dry response of his wife. He stood there like a statue, but Shriji Maharaj left his seat quickly when he heard this dialogue and went hurriedly in the adjacent room where Patel couple was entwined in the confusion. Shriji Maharaj said, 'Meghji Bhagat! Bhimji Vora has promised us the ghee and the gur, therefore, send some one to his house to collect both the items. Your wife is hundred percent perfect in her piece of advice. The house wives are responsible for the proper management of the house. They are good managers in relation to house and hospitality. The man can not manage his house. You are most fortunate to get such a faithful and virtuous lady as your wife. This virtuous and generous lady has gifted a lot toplease God. We admire her virtues.'

Shriji Maharaj changed her heart by praising her virtues. Shriji Maharaj then said, 'Meghji Bhagat! Now you inform Bhima Vora, he will come soon with the ghee and gur.' But the Bhagat's wife intervened, 'No, no. Maharaj! We want nothing from them. We have in plenty by your grace. We have every thing given to us by you. It is our good fortune that God himself dwells here with us to give us devotional pleasure. Patel! Please listen to me. These two pots contain the fresh butter oil. Take both the containers and serve fresh butter oil to our honored guests. Meanwhile I will collect gur from this tall container. Maharaj! Please don't order any thing from the elsewhere. We will manage every thing for your hospitality. Please ask your saints to collect required material from our store.'

Shriji Maharaj then said to her, 'Oh virtuous Lady! Your father had been a faithful satsangi. The virtues of that holy fellowship are percolated deep in your mind and soul. The decency and decorum are visible in your life. Meghji Bhagat! Sadhus are waiting for these items. Now, take it to the saints.

The tasty dishes were now ready to serve Thaal to Bhagwan. They arranged thaal for Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj graced a seat facing east and had the thaal. Shri Hari was about to finish his meal, when his faithful follower Shivram Bhatt came there with a lofty and most delicious feast meal. He submitted the thaal to Shriji Maharaj and prayed, 'Maharaj! Please have it.' Shriji Maharaj said, 'Bhattji! We were to have the

meals here.Why have you brought the meal for me?'

Shivram Bhatt prayed, 'Maharaj! Please have the thaal from us beside the lofty feast served by Meghjibhai.' Meghjibhai intervened in the on going dialogue, 'Bhattji! The feast meals served here not ordinary. Shriji Maharaj himself has put in divine majesty to carry it successfully. God has protected my prestige and honor.' Shri Hari confirmed it with a mild smile. Patel too smiled for his presentation.

Shivram Bhatt said, 'Maharaj! If you find it convenient, please grace my dwelling. Please sanctify our place by your sacred foot prints.' Bhattji was a faithful devotee of Shriji Maharaj. Shri Hari graced the house of his faithful devotee. The King too came to the house of Bhattji for a darshan of Shriji Maharaj, when he knew about this blessed visit.

Shriji Maharaj welcomed the king and invited him with compassionate love to sit at the seat beside Him.

Shri Hari initiates a dialogue and says, 'The mind and soul of some virtuous people are used to be drawn in me as soon they see me and in such meditative mood, they ascend to the Samadhi state. There are people who interpret this state as a magical trick and try to label me as a magician. I never play a magical trick, I am not a magician.'

The devotees were present at the assembly. They prayed for an excuse and said, 'Maharaj! It is a truth that you are a magician. You are creating miracles, creating magic! But this magic is real and true. You are granting the unfulfilled wishes of your devotees. You are reaffirming their faith and trust in God by granting to them an instant darshan of the God, which they have worshipped before as an image or idol. Though you manifest your self in different images and incarnations, you are almighty omniscient supreme Lord. The wicked souls have no access to this eternal truth and therefore they treat you as a magician. The Kama (desire), Krodha (anger) and Swartha (selfishness) prevail everywhere excepting you. They are devil in the garb of a sadhu. They use God as an excuse to glorify saffron robe of a sadhu. They glorify their initiation and asceticism and inspire their ignorant followers to do personal service of them, by introducing such service as the gate of emancipation. They lure gents and ladies in this trap of so called service.'

Shri Hari smiled in consent and inquired about the source of their spiritual wisdom. The devotees then submitted that Shivram Bhatt had helped them to walk on the path of virtues and axiomatic religion. They have absolute faith and trust in Shivram Bhatt. They knew that Bhattji was an enlightened scholar to discriminate between truth and lies. He was used to introduce only the truth as a truth. According to them, Bhattji was a well read scholar and therefore, they followed his counsel most religiously.

The session was concluded after this enlightening dialogue and Shri Hari left the assembly to have Thaal. The two celibates were to cook the meals, but when they served the Thaal, there were innumerable items in it, making it lofty and rich like an Annakut. When Shri Hari asked them and desired to know about such a rich feast meal, they submitted that the devotees were aspiring to avail at contentment of their heart, the life time opportunity of serving thaal to Bhagwan. Therefore, they have arranged for all possible items by procuring raw material, recipe and know-how from the various sources. We have got it done as per their aspiration. Shivrambhai and other Brahmins have cooked

Con. on page 11

Majesty of Devotion

- Swami Ghanshyamdas (L.A.)

The majesty and glory of the devotion of God is beyond the human imagination.Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan himself has praised the glory and majesty of devotion. Shri Hari writes to us in the scripture of Shikshapatri: There is no other better means for the benediction than the means of devotion. Even a scholar without of devotion and satsang, shall be consigned to the lowest lokas. In his Vachanamrits, Shriji Maharaj describes the majesty of devotion:

Gadhada: F-1: The eagle at the refuge of the Dharmkul, rides a chariot or a celestial plane and attains divine abode of God.

Gadhada: F-40: Shravanam (listening), Kirtanam (singing devotional songs), Vishnu Smaran (remembering God), Paad Sevanam (service at the feet of God), Archanam (poojan with the sacred objects), Vandanam (salute and obeisance), Daasyam (service like a slave), Sakhyam (to act like a friend), Aatmanivedanam (absolute submission).

Gadhada: F-42: Even a most sinful man becomes holy and attains eternal amnesty, if he lives in company of eternal truth-God.

Gadhada: F-61: God is the ocean of compassion and loves his devotees. Omniscient Lord

acts at the will of his faithful devotees.

Loya: 4: A devotee of God should live happily with contentment and should do devotion happily.

Gadhada: M-27: To do devotion and meditation within limits of own religion, is the cardinal principle of mine.

Vartal: 16: The devotee, who is happy in the happiness and pleasure of God, sees hell in the gross pleasures.

Jetalpur: 3: Nothing is greater than the life lived at the pleasure of God. This is the devotion and this only is the means to realize God.

Gadhada: L-11: Capture your mind by the nine types of devotion, submitted at the lotus feet of God.

Gadhada: L-39: The greats like Brahama, Shiva, Lakshmiji, Radhaji, Narada, Shuka, Sanakas, Nav Yogeshwara are used to receive the dust particles of the lotus feet of God to put it on their forehead. They do unbroken devotion of Bhagwan.

Ghanshyam Maharaj has praised the majestic devotion in his scripture of Hari-Geeta to preach it to Bhakti Mata. There are nine types of devotion:

Shravan Bhakti: Listen to the Katha-varta and divine episodes of God.

Kirtan Bhakti: To sing devotional songs, submit prayers and chant the names of God.

Smaran Bhakti: To do mental Japa of the hymns and remember God.

Paad Sevan Bhakti: To do service at the lotus feet of God.

Archan Bhakti: To do poojan of God by serving sixteen sacred objects, attires, ornaments, Maha-pooja, Thaal, Aarti and mental worship.

Vandan Bhakti: Humble submission with a salute or obeisance.

Dasya Bhakti: To submit the flowers, Tulsi leaves and sandal wood paste are treated as devotion of God. The service of sweeping the temple and cooking the thaal meals are treated as devotional service. Service to the devotees and the saints are treated as devotion of God.

Sakhya Bhakti: Trust in God as a trustworthy friend of God. Love him more than your love for your wealth, body, family and son. Don't think otherwise about divine acts of God. These are treated as devotion of God.

Aatma Nivedan Bhakti: Submit all your actions at the service of God. Do darshan of God by your eyes. Listen to the leelas of God

by your ears. Use your organ of speech in singing praise of God. Use your mind and thoughts in thinking about God and the saints.

The organ of smell should be used in smelling the flowers received from God. Not to have anything without serving it first to the God. All the actions are related to God in this kind of devotion.

There are two types of the devotees. Those who do devotion to fulfil their desires and the others are desire free.

Lord Shri Rama has described nine types of devotion in the Sabari Gatha: The holy company of the saints, Katha Satsang, service to the Guru, singing praise of God, Japa of the sacred hymns, total withdrawal from the sense objects, seeing God in the gross world, contentment, not to see the faults in the others and absolute trust in God.

The Ramayana has admired the devotion in the episodes of Hanuman, Bharat, Sita, Shabari, Kevat, Vibhishana, Kaushalya, Dasharatha, Lakshmana and other devotees.

Shrimad Bhagwat describes majesty of devotion in the episodes of the Gopis, Uddhava, Vidura, Sudama, Akrura, Narada, Shukadeva, Kuntaji, Uttara, Nand-Yashoda, Dhruva, Prahalad, King Ambarisha, King Bali, Bhishma, Arjuna, Parikshita and other devotees.

The Satsangi Jivan and the Satsanigi Bhushan have admired the majesty of devotion in the episodes of Shri Dada Khachar, Shri Parvatbhai, Shri Jhinabhai, Gopalanand Swami, Brahamanand Swami, Muktanand Swami and the other devout souls.

Do devotion to earn eternal pleasure of Shri Hari.

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Shri Hari graces Shiyani

it under our supervision. Shri Hari had the Thaal and gave prasadi thaal to King Akhabhai of Tavi State. The saints, Parshadas and the other Durbars had the meals afterwards. Meanwhile there was heavy rain. Keeping in view the intensity of rain, Shri Hari changed the programme to cancel his proposed religious tour of Ahmedabad and planned to camp for the four days at Methan in his onward religious tour of the Sorath region. He asked his retinue to rest for a while before they start the journey. Shivram Bhatt requested to Shri Hari to stay put with them for the two days. He was very sorry when Shri Hari reaffirmed the scheduled tour without furthering any halt. Shri Hari asked him to be happy and showered his hearty blessings. Shri Hari graced there after the house of Shri Bhimji Vora. Moti Sheth served pooojan –aarti to Shriji Maharaj and submitted his wealth at the lotus feet of Shri Hari.

They escorted the retinue till village outskirts and paid good bye salute to Shri Hari. Shivram Bhatt and Motiram Sheth spent their whole life in personal service of Shriji Maharaj.

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Healthy Diet

of a food. If you eat more than one serving, you will go over these levels of calories, fat, cholesterol, and sodium.

Calorie-free: fewer than 5 calories **Low calorie:** 40 calories or fewer **Reduced calorie:** at least 25% fewer calories than the regular food item has **Fat free:** less than ½ gram of fat **Low fat:** 3 grams of fat or fewer **Reduced fat:** at least 25% less fat than the regular food item has **Cholesterol free:** fewer than 2 milligrams cholesterol and no more than 2 grams of saturated fat **Low cholesterol:** 20 milligrams or fewer cholesterol and 2 grams or less saturated fat **Sodium free:** fewer than 5 milligrams sodium **Very low sodium:** fewer than 35 milligrams sodium **Low sodium:** fewer than 140 milligrams sodium

SHRI HARI CELEBRATES ANNAKUT AT AADRAJ

- Shastri Haripriyadasji (Gandhinagar)

This is an ancient episode. The people were used to live in far flung villages. The means of communication and transportation were in precarious state due to backwardness of the society. The people were used to meet each other on the special occasions like marriage ceremonies, funeral rituals or on special days like Diwali. The people were economizing extensively in their expenditure and living due to limited sources and lesser income. The two friends- Mohanbhai and Maganbhai- were used to live in a small village. Mohan was bit worried due to festive days of Diwali. This was the time when family friends and relatives were meeting each other to convey good wishes. Mohan did not like waste of the sweets for such visitors. With such disturbing thoughts in his mind, he was walking lousily through a narrow lane of the local market. Maganbhai saw his friend lost in the worries. He said, 'Mohanbhai! Jai Swaminarayan.' Mohan reciprocated in a subdue tone. Maganbhai said, 'Mohan! Is there any problem? Why you look so worried?' Mohan said, 'Maganbhai! There is always Jai Jaikar in your life. You satsangis are happy people. The people like me are at mercy of the society. Now in day to come, there shall be heavy rush of the visitors to greet me on Diwali festival. They will come to have sweets from me. There is no escape to it. I am doomed.' To revive the spirit of his friend, Maganbhai says, 'Oh My Friend! Don't worry, I will find out a safe escape for you.' Mohan said, 'Magan! You are like God to me. Please do some thing.' Maganbhai said, 'Mohan! No other, but Shri Swaminarayan is Supreme Lord. We all are his follower devotees. As I know,Lord Shri Hari is visiting Aadaraj to celebrate Diwali festivals. A lofty Annakut shall served by Him to Lord Thakorji. We both should go there to do darshan of Shriji Maharaj. We should spend there few days in holy company of the sains and devotees. This sacred pilgrimage will relieve us from the burden of the visitors.

Shri Hari camped at Aadraj in His religious tour of northern region of Gujarat. The village population was quite different than now. It was inhabited by the Khant community. Khant belongs to Kshatriya caste (warrior community). Ratuji Khant of Aadraj was a faithful follower of Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj dwelled at his house to organize Diwali festival and Annakut at this small village. The news of the festivities spread swiftly in entire region of north Gujarat and devotees and saints started to come from the far flung places to have blissful darshan of Shriji Maharaj. The satsang sabhas were addressed daily by Shriji Maharaj.The fortunate souls were living in holy company of Shriji Maharaj and His saints.

One fine morning, they received the news of the victory of Muktanand Swami in a debate with the scholars of the Vedas. The state level debate was organized by the Baroda State. Muktanand Swami was coming to Aadraj to do darshan of Shriji Maharaj. Shri Hari led the huge retinue of the saints and devotees and walked forward to village outskirts to receive His disciple-Muktanand Swami. Shriji Maharaj embraced him heart to heart and placed this village in history of the religion. Shriji Maharaj directed the well wishers to help Muktanand Swami to sit on a tall bullock-cart. Nityanand Swami, Brahmanand Swami and Chaitanyanand Swami sat beside him. In a decent welcome they were honored with the Kumkum, Akshat and flower garlands. Grand welcome assembly was organized on the special occasion. Shriji Maharaj blessed them and pronounced to the world, 'I am installing these four saints at the enlightening seat of the

Sadguru. All the followers should do the poojan of these four great saints. The devotees should follow their orders.' Thus, the four great saints received enlightening title of Sadguru on the land of Aadraj. Shriji Maharaj lived here for a long time.

The saints and devotees engaged themselves in preparations of the Annakut, quite before the Diwali festival. They cooked hundreds of varieties to serve lofty and wholesome Annakut. Darbar Ratuji submitted his prayer, 'Maharaj! We organize every year the sport of lighted lamps on auspicious day of Diwali. We may arrange it at your pleasure.' Maharaj then inquired about the nature of this sport. Darbar said, 'Maharaj! We arrange this at the pond side. At late evening, we leave earthen pots floating on the water. There on the pots we place earthen lamps spreading light, while floating in the pond. The shooters have to aim at the wick of the lamps to shoot it without any harm to its containers and the pots. Only burning wick needs to be shot at. The winner shall be honored by the state on behalf of subjects.' Maharaj said, 'Darbar! This is a good sport, Better you arrange it.'

They organized the sport with the due blessings of Shriji Maharaj. Shriji maharaj graced the pond side with the retinue of the saints and parshadas. There were many shooters. One after another, they tried at their best to shoot the target, but they failed miserably.

Shriji Maharaj said, 'Darbar! Why it happens so? It is a poor shaw.' Darbar said, 'Maharaj! This is normal. Each our sport ends like this. One among a group of fifty wins the sport and that too is very rare.'

Maharaj said with a bright smile, 'Darbar! We have the shooters with our retinue, who shoot perfectly in their maiden aim. They don't need a second try! Once should be enough! If you wish, I can present him here.' For Darbar, it was difficult to believe in.

Why a shooter of such high rank should join a retinue of the saints and satsangis? However, he consented to Maharaj to send a shooter. Shri Maharaj asked Bhaguji to participate in this sport. Bhaguji obeyed to the will of God. He held the gun in his hand, aimed at the lamp with a prayer to Maharaj and in his first effort, he shot the target. Burning wick fell in the pond.

Festive Annakut was served on the next day. Shriji Maharaj served the Annakut by serving Aarti to Lord Thakorji. Thousand of devotees were gathered at the temple to do darshan of this divine view. S.G. Nishkulanand Swami has narrated this festival in his sacred scripture of Bhakta Chintamani.

અમદાવાદ શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિરમાં દીપાવલીના શુભ કાર્યક્રમ

ધનતેરશ (આસો વદ-૧૩) તા. ૧૯-૧૦-૨૦૦૬ ગુરુવાર

કાળી ચૌદશ (આસો વદ-૧૪) તા. ૨૦-૧૦-૨૦૦૬ શુક્રવાર

શ્રી હનુમાનજીનું પૂજન - આરતી : સાંજે ૬-૪૫ કલાકે પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ. આચાર્ય - મહારાજશ્રીના શુભ કર કમળ થી સંપન્ન થશે.

દીપાવલી (આસોવદ-૧૪) તા. ૨૧-૧૦-૨૦૦૬ શનિવાર : સમૂહ ચોપડા-શારદાપૂજન, લક્ષ્મીપૂજન સાંજે ૬-૦૦ કલાકે અમદાવાદ મંદિર સભા મંડપમાં પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ. આચાર્ય મહારાજશ્રીના શુભ કરકમળથી વિદ્વાન વિપ્રો દ્વારા સંપન્ન થશે.

અન્નકૂટોત્સવ (આસોવદ-૩૦) તા. ૨૨-૧૦-૨૦૦૬ રવિવાર, ગોવર્ધન પૂજન સવારે ૯-૦૦ કલાકે, અન્નકૂટોત્સવ આરતી બપોરે ૧૨-૦૦ કલાકે, અન્નકૂટ રચના-દર્શન બંધ સવારે ૧૦-૦૦ થી ૧૨-૦૦, અન્નકૂટ દર્શન ૧૨-૦૦ થી ૪-૦૦ કલાક સુધી.

નૂતન વર્ષ પ્રારંભ (કારતક સુદ-૧) સંવત ૨૦૬૩ **નૂતન વર્ષ શુભારંભ** તા. ૨૩-૧૦-૨૦૦૬ સોમવાર. પ.પૂ. મોટા મહારાજશ્રી, પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ. આચાર્ય મહારાજશ્રી મંદિરમાં બેઠકમાં દર્શન-આશીર્વાદ આપશે.

Majesty of Holy Fellowship

- Sadhu Shrirangdas (Gandhinagar)

This is a story from our ancient scriptures. The Saraswati is a holy river of ancient India. The state capital-Bhadravati- was situated at the bank of Saraswati. King Dyutiman belonged to the dynasty of Soma. He was a virtuous and truthful king. The people were very happy in his kingdom. He was treating them like his own children. He was protecting his public and the state. He was famous for his justice. He was very strict to the criminals and offenders. He was supportive to the rule of laws. His administration was very strict and disciplined.

Sheth Dhanpal was a businessman of Bhadravati. He was a wealthy merchant, kind and generous. He was famous in the state for his donations and social service. The Brahmins too were treating him like a devotee of God. Seth Dhanpal has five sons. He taught them virtues and helped them to live a pious life. Dhrishtabuddhi was a son of Dhanpal Seth. He was quite different than his brothers. He believed in free life and disobeyed the rules of discipline. He never believed in virtuous life and preferred limitless pleasures. He never believed in God or divine power. Seth knew about misconduct of this son and tried repeatedly to bring him on the path of virtues.

Seth Dhanpal tried at his best to teach virtues to his lost son. He repented for this lost child when he found him having alcohol in company of prostitutes and thugs. With a heavy heart, he threw him out from his family and the house. Dhrishtabuddhi left the family to live free life of his choice. Now there was no money to spend. Friends and companions left him when he stopped to pay for their pleasures. Poor and needy Dhrishtabuddhi started to steal and rob. Police stations and jails became his permanent address due to his crime record. The physical punishments and the humiliation of the police custody became unbearable to Dhrishtabuddhi and therefore, he broke the imprisonment and left the capital forever.

He went to the forest and roamed day and night in search of food and shelter. He started to kill animals for his food. As the time passed in such sinful indulgencies, a small time goon became a demonic sinner by his sinful acts of violence and cruelty. Each rising Sun was adding in his burden of the sins.

Once he was roaming at the river side in the forest. Rishi Kaudinya was washing his side clothes after bathing. As he spread his wet cloth, a few drops from it fell on Dhrishtabuddhi. This sacred touch of the water acted like a divine miracle; it changed his heart and destroyed his past sins. He realized his wrongs and felt very sorry for himself. He rushed to the saint fell right at the lotus feet of Rishi. He prayed for a pardon and requested to the saint to assign him some atonement. Rishi Kaudinya blessed him with compassion and asked him to do penance.

He became a holy saint by his penance and atonement and spent his life in holy company of the ascetics.

Joban Pagi too, was robber, but his heart was changed due to his service at the lotus feet of Shriji Maharaj. Holy fellowship relieves the soul from the burden of the sins. Live in Holy company and do devotion.

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'शतंजीवेम् शरदः'

Healthy Diet

Why should I try to have a healthy diet ?

Having a healthy diet is one of the most important things you can do to help your overall health. Along with physical activity, your diet is the key factor that affects your weight. Having a healthy weight for your height is important. Being overweight or obese increases your risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, breathing problems, arthritis, gallbladder disease, sleep apnea (breathing problems while sleeping), osteoarthritis, and some cancers.

Having a healthy diet is sometimes easier said than done. It is tempting to eat less healthy foods because they might be easier to get or prepare, or they satisfy a craving. Between family and work or school, you are probably balancing a hundred things at once. Taking time to buy the ingredients for and cooking a healthy meal sometimes falls last on your list. But you should know that it isn't hard to make simple changes to improve your diet. And you can make sense of the mounds of nutrition information out there. A little learning and planning can help you find a diet to fit your lifestyle, and maybe you can have some fun in the process!

What are the most important steps to a healthy diet ?

The basic steps to good nutrition come from a diet that:

- helps you either lose weight or maintain a good weight.
- is balanced overall, with foods from all food groups, with lots of delicious fruits, vegetables, whole-grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk and milk products.
- is low in saturated fat, trans fat, and cholesterol. Keep total fat intake between 20 to 35 percent of calories, with most fats coming from sources of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fatty acids, such as nuts, and vegetable oils.
- includes a variety of grains daily, especially whole-grains, a good source of fiber.
- includes a variety of fruits and vegetables (two cups of fruit and 2 1/2 cups of vegetables per day are recommended for a 2,000 calorie diet).
- has a small number of calories from added sugars (like in candy, cookies, and cakes).
- has foods prepared with less sodium or salt (aim for no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day, or about one teaspoon of salt per day).

Mix up your choices within each food group

Focus on fruits. Eat a variety of fruits – whether fresh, frozen, cnned or dried – rather than fruit juice for most of your fruit choices. For a 2,000 calorie diet, you will need 2 cups of fruit each day (for example, 1 small banana, 1 large orange, and 1/4 cup of dried apricots or peaches).

Vary you veggies. Eat more dark green veggies, such as broccoli, kale and other dark leafy greens; orange veggies, such as carrots, sweetpotatoes, pumpkin, and winter squash, and beans and peas, such as pinto beans, kidney beans, black beans, garbanzo beans, split peas and lentils.

Get your calcium-rich foods. Get 3 cups of low-fat or fat-free milk – or an equivalent amount of low-fat yougurt and/or low-fat cheese (1 ½ ounces of cheese equals one cup of milk) – every day. For kids aged 2 to 8, it's 2 cup of milk. If you don't or can't consume milk, choose lactose-free milk products and/or calcium-fortified foods and beverages.

Make half your grains whole. Eat at least 3 ounces of whole-grains cereals, breads, crackers, rice, or pasta every day. One ounce is about 1 slice of bread, 1 cup of breakfast cereal, or ½ cup

of cooked rice or pasta. Look to see that grains such as wheat, rice, otas, or corn are refereed to as 'whole' in the list of ingredient.

Place importance on protein. Protein intake is a very important compoenent in our diet, as many of us are vegetarian. Vary your protein choice – with more lentils (dals), beans, peas, nuts and seeds.

Know the limits on fast, salt and sugars. Read the nutrition facts label on foods. Look for foods low in saturated fats and trans fats. Choose and prepare foods and beverages with a little salt (sodium) and/or sugars (caloric sweeteners).

I'm concerned about heart disease. Is there a special diet to help prevent or control it ?

Heart disease is the #1 killer of both women and men. Eating a heart-healthy diet is key to help reduce your risk factors for heart disease, like high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, overweight, and obesity. It also will help you control these conditions if you already have them.

Here are some *general* guidelines for heart-healthy eating:

- Choose foods low in *saturated and trans fats*. Foods low in saturated fat include fruits, vegetables, whole grain foods, and low-fat or nonfat dairy products. Try to avoid fried and baked goods such as crackers and cookies.
- Choose a diet moderate in *total fat*. Keep total fat intake between 20 to 35 percent of calories. You don't have to eliminate all fat from your diet! This will give you enough calories to satisfy your hunger, which can help you to eat fewer calories, stay at a healthy weight, and lower your blood cholesterol level. To keep your total fat intake moderate, try to substitute unsaturated fat for saturated fat.
- Choose foods low in *cholesterol*. Try to eat fruit, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat or nonfat dairy products, and moderate amounts of lean meats, skinless poultry, and fish. Eat plenty of *soluble* fiber, which may help lower your LDL ("bad") blood cholesterol. Good sources are oat bran, oatmeal, beans, peas, rice bran, barley, citrus fruits, and strawberries. *Insoluble* fiber will not help your blood cholesterol level but is still good for healthy bowel function. Good sources of insoluble fiber are whole wheat breads, kidney beans, almonds, beets, carrots, brussel sprouts, broccoli, cauliflower, green beans, and apple skin.
- You also can eat omega-3 fatty acids from plant sources, such as from tofu, soybeans, canola, walnuts, and flaxseed (these contain alpha-linolenic acid, a less potent form of omega-3 fatty acid).
- Cut down on *sodium*. If you have high blood pressure as well as high blood cholesterol, your health care provider may tell you to cut down on sodium or salt. Even if you don't have high blood pressure or cholesterol, try to have no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium each day. You can choose low-sodium foods, which will also help lower your cholesterol, such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat or nonfat dairy products. To flavor your food, reach for herbs and spices rather than high-sodium table salt. Be sure to read the labels of seasoning mixes because some contain salt.
- Watch your body weight. It is not uncommon for overweight people to have higher blood cholesterol than people who are not overweight. When you reduce the fat in your diet, you cut down not only on cholesterol and saturated fat but on calories as well. This will
- help you to lose weight and improve your blood cholesterol, both of which will reduce your risk for heart disease.

I'm confused by all of the labels I see on foods, like "fat free" and "low calorie." What do these terms mean ?

Terms like these are on many food packages. Here are some definitions based on one serving

Con. on page 11

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Lord Ganapatiji at the Ahmedabad temple graces Religious procession at Ahemedabad

The Samaiyas and celebrations are the grand traditions established by Shriji Maharaj. The Jalajhilani Ekadashi is the one among such celebrations. A colorful religious procession of Lord Ganapatiji was organized on this religious occasion. H.H.Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced this prasadi shrine and did poojan-archan of the Lord Ganapatiji in benign presence of Lord Narnarayandev. Lord Ganapatiji, accompanied by His holiness, graced the golden palanquin to bless the religious procession and the residents of Ahmedabad. The hundreds of saints, parshadas and the occhavias joined the procession. The procession was started from the Haveli-temple and passed through Lambeshwar-pol, Relief road and Shahi baugh to receive lofty welcome at Narayan Ghat temple. Lord Ganapatiji received here poojan-archan, came back to His abode at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir,Kalupur Ahmedabad and received warm welcome at the court of Lord Naranarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj. The event was celebrated with devotional music presented by the devotees and ochchhavia mandal. These religious events were organized by the Kothari and the saints under guidance from the Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji.-*Kothari Dharmaprakashdas*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Kalol

A Satsang sabha was organized here at the temple to receive blessings from His holiness. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the sabha with the retinue of the saints and senior devotees. The aim and the objectives of Shri Swaminarayan Museum were explained in detail by the saints to the devotees and the donations of Rupees seven lakh were promised by the Haribhaktas from Kalol.Last year too, the satasang at Kalol has reaffirmed his faith by the generous service at the Katha-Parayan Satsang. While donating at the sabha, the devotees have aspired to do such service in years to come to please Lord Shri Hari. – *Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Kalol.*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Unjha

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Brahman Sheri) Unjha has celebrated Hindola festival by presenting beautiful Hindolas to Lord Thakori. The events were celebrated daily between the second day of the bright half of Shravana and the eighth day of the dark half of Shravana. H.H. Acharya Maharj1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the temple and inaugurated Hindola fortnight. The thousands of people have visited the shrine to pay salute to God by swinging cradle of Lord Thakorji. The devotees and the saints have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari and blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri by their devotional service. – *Govindbhai Patel*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Viramgam

The Dhoon-session of the 225 hours duration was organized here at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Ladies) with the due blessings of Respected Gadiwalashri. The Dhoon-session of the Maha-mantra Dhoon was conducted by Samkhya Yogi Gitaba. Hundreds of female satsangis have participated at the dhoon session. Respected gadiwalashri graced the event and concluded the session by presenting Aarti to Lord Thakorji.

- Sharadaben babubhai Thakkar

The Satsang-festivities at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir,Idar (S.K.)

The Hindola festival and the Janmashtami were celebrated here under able guidance from

the Mahant Swami, S.G. Jagdishprasaddasji. The hindolas of various objects were presented by the saints and the devotees to please Lord Thakorji. The devotional music of the dhoon and the devotional songs was organized at late night to celebrate birthday of Lord Shri Krishna. The villages of Idar Desh-namely, Aroda, Maniyor, Umedgarh etc., were visited by Shastri Swami Harijivandasji and Katha-varta satsang was conducted at those places to please Lord Thakorji.

– Kothari Satyasamkalpadas

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Vanjhar (Sarkhej)

Lord Shri Krishna's birthday-Janmashtami-was celebrated here at the temle with the due blessings of H.H. Acharay Maharajshri.The devotional music of the dhoon-kirtanas was presented at the late night satsang and the birthday Aarti was served to Lord Shri Krishna.

- Kothari Ramanbhai

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kankaria, Ahmedabad

The feast of eternal knowledge- Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan – was organized here at our temple during the sacred days of Shravana.The devotional events were inspired by S.G. Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Kothari Swami Anandprasaddasji. The seat of the readerpriest was graced by Shastri Yagyaprakashdasji. H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the concluding ceremonies on the last day of Shravana and concluded the sessions by presenting poojan to the seat of the reader priest.

The Maharudra Yagya was organized on the last day of Shravana to please Lord Siddheshwar Mahadeva. His Holiness graced the concluding ceremonies and concluded the holy fire. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad temple) and other saints were present on this occasion. His holiness has blessed the devotees for their donations towards the new-temple and the museum. Shri Narottam Bhagat, Shri Nirubhai Thakar, Poojari Dev Swami, Gor Haharaj and others have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service at the temple.

– Shri Gaurang Patel, S.N.N.D.Y.M.

The Jaljhilani-procession from the Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria (Ahmedabad)

Our temple at Kankariahas celebrated Jaljhilani by conducting a majestic procession of Lord Ganpatiji and Lord Harikrishna Maharaj. The thousands of devotees followed the rout of the religious procession to help Lord Ganpatiji and Lord Harikrishna Maharaj to grace boats for the water sports at the prasadi lake of Kankaria. The Brass band and the music groups led the procession to add colour and charms. The procession was transformed in to the assembly when they reached the lake side –the sacred prasadi place. A formal sabha was organized near the canopy and the foot prints of Shriji Maharaj. The poojan-archan were served here to Lord Thakorji and Lord thokorji and Ganpatiji were helped there after to grace the boats for the water sports. The glory and majesty of Lord Ganesha was praised by Swami Yagyaprakashdasji. The saints from Ahmedabad temple were present on this occasion.

– Vishnukumar Shastri

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Nava Vadaj, Ahmedabad

The day of Lord Shri Hari's departure to His divine abode- 20-9-06 was treated here as the day of meditation and devotion to serve collective recitation of Jana Mangal Stotra and Bhakta Chintamani. The session was concluded with the chants of the Mahamantra.

The Jalajhilani was celebrated by the religious procession of Lord Thakorji and Lord Ganapatiji. The hundreds of devotees were present on this occasion to escort God in their pilgrimage to Narayanghat.– *Shambhubhai Patel*

MULI REGION

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Jivapar (Halar)

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has strengthened the devotional fervour in local satsang by installing idols of God in this temple. The satsang activities are progressing steadily and the saints from the Maha-mandirs are visiting this place to conduct Katha-kirtans. S.G. Bhakti Swami and Brahmprakash Swami have visited this small village on 5-9-06 and have enlightened the satsangis by conducting Katha-varta. They have trained the ten children to conduct early morning pooja vidhi. They have given to them early morning pooja. This has created enthusiasm among the children.

– Amarshibhai Patel, Navsari

OVERSEAS

The I.S.S.O. Seva organizes the fourth medical camp at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Colonia (America)

The ISSO SEVA conducts free medical camps at all the ISSO Temples and the Chapters in America, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri of Shri Narnarayandev Desh. The global institution, ISSO Seva, has organized the fourth medical camp in presence of Mahant Swami Devprasaddasji and Shastri Ishwarjeevandasji on auspicious occasion of the first annual patotsava of God. The thousands of devotees and aspirants were present at the temple.The tents were erected at the courtyard to facilitate medical services and the patients. The consultation, treatment and medicines were free for the patients. The service was made available between 9.00 am and 3.00pm. About 86 patients have benefited by this special service. Besides medical treatment, the educative programme and slide shows on prevention of disease were presented to create awareness among the people. The renowned medical practitioners, surgeons and the well experienced nurses were present at the camp to help and treat the patients. Sejal Patel, Bhumi Dave, Monika Choksi, Priya Patel, Palku Patel, Yogini Rao, Dharmi Patel, Jasmina Choksi and Bhavik Maheta have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their service. Dr Meena Parikh, Haren Bhatt, Ashish Maheta and Poonam Poonam Patel have served as expert physician. Dr Neena Shah, Dr Dave, Dr Chirag Patel, and dr Hitendra Patel are volunteering regular service at Seva medical camps.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Patotsava festivities and blessed his satsangis.His holiness graced thereafter the Seva medical camp and admired the dedicated service of the team members. His holiness conveyed hearty blessings and encouraged them to expand medical service. The medical consultation, treatment and medicines are free for the patients The Clinic at the Seva office is open for the medical service on 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month (5pm to 8pm).

– Pravinbhai Shah

Canada (I.S.S.O.) Chapter

Shri Krishna Janmashtami was celebrated here at the house of Shri Shashikantbhai in presence of hundreds of satsangi families arrived from Toronto, Missisaga, Helilton and other places. The Dhoon, kirtans, katha-satsang, Annakut and Aarti were served to Lord Thakorji.

The Sabha was started with the 'Aaj Maare Orde-re.' The discourses were recited from the Vachanamrits and the devotional songs written by the Nand sants were sang by the devotees to please Lord Shri Hari.The Maha-pooja was served after the path of the Janmangal stotra. The festivities were concluded with the Thaal, Aarti and Dhoon. The one hundred and fity devotees have benefited by this special session.

The satsang activities are progressing in this area with the due blessings of Acharya Maharajshri. *– Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, ISSO Chapter, Canada*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Sydney (I.S.S.O. Australia)

The Satsang activities are conducted were well at the temple by the devotees at this place, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The Sunday satsang (2-7-06) was hosted this week by Shri Mukeshbhai Amin and his family. The Hindola festival was celebrated here by presenting beautiful Hindolas to Lord Thakorji. The Hindola dated 16-7-06 were hosted by Shri Bhailalbhai Patel. The Hindola made of sea-shells were presented on 23-7-06 and this cradle service was hosted by Shri Khimjibhai Vaghjiyani in memory of (Late) Shri Ravjibhai Vaghjiyani. The Chocolate-Hindola dated 30-7-06, were served by the devotee Shri Vrajmaru. The Hindola dated 6-8-06 were made of various pulses. This unique Hindola Satsang was hosted by Shri Mayank Chauhan.The discourses of Vachanamrit and the devotional songs were recited at this special satsang. The Satsang activities are progressing steadily with the due blessings of Acharya Maharajshri.

– Tejas B. Patel

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, L.A. (California, I.S.S.O.)

The saints and the devotees have celebrated here Ganpati-jayanti by installing Ganapatiji amidst the chants vedic hymns on auspicious 4th day of the bright half of Bhadrapada. The glory and majesty of Lord Ganesha was highlighted by the Mahant Swami, Shastri Keshavcharandasji. The poojan Aarti were served by Ghanshyam Swami. The Dhoon, Kirtan and Aarti were served to lord Ganpatiji to earn pleasure of Shri Hari. The Sabha was concluded with the Nitya-niyama and thaal-arti.

–Natubhai Patel

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Leicester (U.K. I.S.S.O)

The one hundred and eight recitations of the Hanuman Chalisa were conducted here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri. The devotees were inspired and encouraged by the saints from Muli dhaam to conduct this devotional session.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri has graced this shrine on 30-8-06 to serve annual patotsava abhishekam amidst the chants of vedic hymns. His holiness has served thereafter the Annakut Aarti and blessed the satsangis.

Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Parayan (9-8-06 to 13-8-06) was organized here to sing praise of shri Hari. The seat of the reader priest was graced jointly by the celibate saint Hariswaroopanand (Chhapaiya Dhaam) and Shastri Swami Dharmakishordasji. The birthday of Lord Krishna was celebrated with devotional fervour. The event was hosted by the Makwana family in memory of Late Shri Surendrabhai Makwana. A Dhoon session (6am to 12 noon) was organized and Shri Swaminarayan Mahamantra was recited to please Shri Hari. A special session was organized to recite collectively the text of Hanuman Chalisa. The blessings from H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri, were read to the devotees. The hosts of the events were honored with due grace. The saints were come from India with the due permission from His holiness, to conduct satsang at this shrine. The dhoon session (24-9-06) of Shri Swaminarayan Maha-mantra was conducted by them at the shrine. The event was hosted by the Ratnani family, in memory of the devotee (Late) Rambhaben Ramjibhai Ratnani.

- Hemrajbhai Chotalia

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– Editor



H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri blesses the Parayan Satsang organzied at Shri Jivrajpark (Ahmedabasd) Temple.



H.H. Acharya Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri serves Mahabhishekam to Lord Mahadeva at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kankaria.



H.H. Lalji Maharajshri honored brillient students and awared schield on occasion of 'Saraswati Sanmaan'.

H.H. Acharya Shri Maharajshri blesses the medical camp organzied by I.S.S.O. Seva, Colonai, U.S.A.





The constant Maha Mantra Dhoon organized on occasion of 225th Birthday of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. The event was organized at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, (ladies), Viramgam.



Hindola darshan at our Sydney temple (ISSO) Australia.



H.H. Acharya Shri Maharajshri admired the Hindola served to Lord Thakorji at our Unjha Temple.

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The saints and the devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting birthday Arti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.



The Mahatn Shri Raulji of Badarinarayan Dhaam, welcomes His holiness at the Badrinarayan Dhaam.



Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji leads the devotees to serve Patotsava Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Badarinarayandhaam.

H.H. Lalji Maharaj 1008 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharajshri blesses the Satsang Sabha.

