December 2009

શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

Rs. 5





શ્રી સહજાનંદ
ગુરુકુળ
કોટેશ્વરમાં
સ્નેહ મિલન
પ્રસંગે દર્શન આપતા
શ્રીહરિના દ્દઢા, ૭માં અને
૮માં વંશજ

પ્રકાશકઃ- શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧ ● Publisher:- Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad-1

ઉત્તરાયણ પુણ્ય પર્વ પ્રસંગે દાન પુણ્ય

ભારત વર્ષના પુણ્ય પર્વોમાં ઉત્તરાયણનો મહિમા અનેરો અને અલૌકિક છે.મકર રાશીમાં સૂર્ય પ્રવેશનો સંક્રાંતિકાળ એ શુભનું મંગળકારી આગમન, સર્વથા દાન પુણ્યમાં અનેક ઘણો ઉમેરો કરતો હોવાથી આ સમયે પુણ્ય સ્થાનકમાં દાન કરવાથી આલોક અને પરલોક સંબંધી સર્વ મનોરથો તત્કાલ ફળે છે.

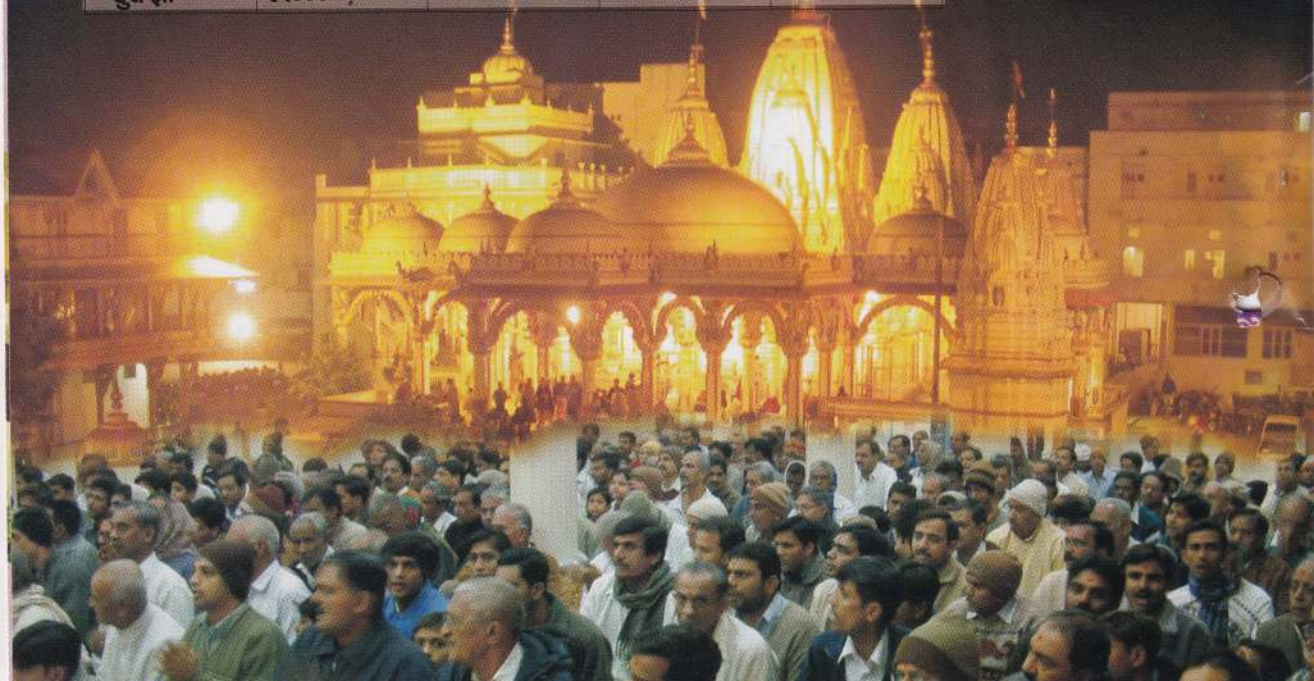
તો આવા સર્વોપરિ શ્રી નરનારાયણદેવના અલૌકિક સાનિધ્યમાં તથા પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ. આચાર્ય ૧૦૦૮ શ્રી કોશલેન્દ્રપ્રસાદજી મહારાજશ્રી તથા પરમ પૂજ્ય મોટા મહારાજશ્રી તથા પ.પૂ. ભાવિ આચાર્ય લાલજી મહારાજશ્રીની શુભ નિશ્રામાં અને પૂજ્ય બ્રહ્મનિષ્ઠ સંતોની શુભ ઉપસ્થિતિમાં તા. ૧૪-૧-૨૦૧૦ના રોજ પુણ્ય પર્વ હોવાથી દરરોજ પ્રભાતે થતી ધનુર્માસની ધૂન્ય કથાની દિવ્ય સભામાં પધારી ઠાકોરજીની આ સેવાનો અતિ શુભ પ્રસંગે ઉમંગભેર વધાવી સેવામાં સહભાગી થઈ ધન્યભાગી બનીએ.

નોંધ : અમદાવાદ શહેરના દરેક સભ્યોને કાર્ડ પોસ્ટદ્વારા પણ મોકલવામાં આવશે.
દેશ-વિદેશના હરિભક્તોને પણ ઉતરાયણ નિમિત્તે સેવા મોકલવા ખાસ ભલામણ છે.

મહંત સ્વામી
શાસ્ત્રી સ્વામી હરિકૃષ્ણદાસજી

વિગત	ભાવ રૂા.	વજન	૫ કિલોના ભાવ રૂા.	આપની સેવા રૂા.
ચોખા	૨૫૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૧૨૫	
ઘઉં	૧૩૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૭૫	
મગ	૪૦૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૨૦૦	
તલ	૧૨૦૦	૨૦ કિલો	૩૦૦	
ચણા દાળ	૩૫૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૧૭૫	
તુવેર દાળ	૮૦૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૪૦૦	
મોગર દાળ	૫૦૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૨૫૦	
શુદ્ધ ઘી	૩૦૦૦	૧ ડબો	૧૦૦૦	
તેલ	૧૦૦૦	૧ ડબો	૩૫૦	
ગોળ	૨૦૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૧૦૦	
ખાંડ	૩૫૦૦	૧૦૦ કિલો	૧૭૫	
મંદિર જીર્ણોદ્ધાર				
કુલ રૂા.	૨૫૦૦૦		૩૧૫૦	

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

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Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 3 No : 32 December-2009

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Editorial

Any person in this world begins his work after verifying the position of the stars and on any pious and good day. Even a bad person begins his work on any good day. But sometimes, when a person does not succeed in spite of such precautions, he blames the day or his luck. Then a natural question arises, what is the good day and good time for a person? Once during *Vicharan* of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, the villagers asked Maharaj to have mercy upon him and to have a Brahmin in their village so that they can obtain from good *Muhurt* and good day to perform good and noble deeds. At that time, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan told the villagers that, they need not have any Brahmin for that purpose. If they would start their work after chanting the name of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan five times, that work would yield good result and they need not wait for any good time.

From the eyes of the world, the time period between 16th December to 14th January is a period of *Kamurta*. The people living in the society do not arrange any marriage function. They also do not conduct any social function during this period. But for the devotees of the Lord, this is the best time to perform worship. It is the period to obtain Gyan- Gyan about the Almighty Lord.

"સજની આરે ચોઘડીયું અમૃત લાભનું,
ફરી નહી મળે એવું વીજના ઝબકારા જેવું મોતી પરોવી લેવું સત્સંગ કીજીયે."

When we wake up early in the morning, become pious and Sattvik in our mind and heart and chant the name of the Almighty Lord loudly, then we get the divine experience of *Akshardham*. Otherwise from the worldly point of view, it is already a period of *Kamurta*. Therefore let us perform special Bhajan and Bhakti of the Almighty Lord during this pious Dhanur Maas!!!

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

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

(November-2009)



1. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kanubhai C. Modi on the occasion of *Vishnu-Yaag*.
2. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies), Viramgam, on the occasion of *Parayan*.
4. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
4-9 Pilgrimage to Bangkok (Thailand) for *Dharmvicharan*.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kapadvanj, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
12. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Babubhai Jivrambhai, Bapunagar.
Graced the house of the devotee Shri Sureshbhai Sojitra, Maninagar.
13. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ramchandra Popatlal Soni, Bopal.
15. Graced Balvantrai Hall of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria on the occasion of concluding ceremony of *Parayan*.
17. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-2) on the occasion of *Parayan*.
19. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Juna Rabadia (Panchmahal) on the occasion of Khat-Muhurt.
20. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-2)
21. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-2) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
22. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Aantroli (Tal.Kapadwanj) alongwith H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj on the occasion of invocation of the idol images.
23. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Himatnagar, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj graced the village Vadu, on the occasion of *Parayan*.
24. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadu (Tal. Kadi) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
25. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jamiyatpura on the occasion of invocation of the idol images.
26. Graced the village Devipur (Tal. Halvad-Muli Desh) on the occasion of *Shakotsav*.
27-28. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jetpur (Machchu) (Muli Desh) on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
Graced the village Madhapar (Kachchh).
29. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Aaditya S. Vyas, Jivrajpark.
Graced Satsang Shibir organized at Shree Sahjanand Gurukul, Koteshwar alongwith H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj.

Firmness with confidence

- Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdasji Guru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat)

There are 52 cards in a game of cards. There are 365 days in one year of human life. Each day is a card and this card can not only affect the year but the whole life. Sometimes a day appears ominous and the other day does not appear so. In fact all the days are same- be it a full moon day or a day without the moon. Of course there is difference in its appearance.

There are lying hidden many possibilities in this one card of each day of human life. Sometimes it so happens that seeds of unhappiness are found hidden in any happy event of a person and the seeds of happiness are found hidden in any unhappy event of a person. But nothing can be predicted in life because life is unpredictable. No one knows the tomorrow. Therefore, if one wishes to worship Shree Hari, he should worship Him today and should not leave it on tomorrow. The very unpredictable nature of life makes it both interesting as well as mysterious. No one can comprehend life. Lord Krishna has *Sudarshan Chakra*. When the opponent crosses his limits, then there is always *Sudarshan Chakra*. Everyone has his own will power; even the most deceased person has this with him. How critical was the situation of Draupadi in Mahabharat when she had to undergo *Agni-Pariksha!*

Every person has his own self-confidence and he has above him the shelter of Almighty Lord. A person may or may not believe in Almighty Lord but he can not logically comprehend how Truth and Good triumph in life. This very form of Truth is narrated as the Form of Paramatma by Vyasji. Wherever there is Paramatma in the form of Truth, the victory is certain.

'Satyamev Jayate' is not a hollow consolation. It is a human experience that in the end all evil powers suffer shameful defeat against the Truth and Good in the battle of life. At last Truth triumphs over untruth and Good over Evil.

Therefore a man should not presume his future as the Ocean of Darkness. There is something hidden in every day of his life and therefore he should play this game with a hope of something good coming on each day. One may get victory or suffer defeat in this game of life. But there is unique pleasure of playing this game. Therefore our national Shayan Zaverchand Meghani has sung that we shall tolerate the irony of Luck with smiling face. Though he did not live long yet he gave very valuable things to the nation. One may be Swami Vivekanand too!

This vast life cannot be encompassed in personal happiness and miseries noted in a personal diary. If the card is thrown without playing presuming it useless, then that card is deemed to have been cancelled without any reason and a possibility of home too. Some persons run away from the battlefield. But there are very few persons, who never run away during the critical time. If the Lord Krishna leaves the battlefield as a part of his strategy for victory then it is not coward ness of the *Lord Ranchhod*! It is only a war-strategy.

Many common men have not preferred to run away from unbearable circumstances. They have faced the most difficult situations in their life. Just as a soldier becomes a martyr on the battlefield many devotees of the Almighty Lord do not leave their Lord. This is called real bravery and only such devotees are ardently loved and looked after by the Almighty Lord. One expects victory only from the firm minds. How can one expect victory from a person who leaves the battlefield in between?

The sun removes the darkness of every night and spreads light. Similarly such a sun is there in human soul which dispels darkness of superstition and spreads the light of self confidence and that is the real power and strength of a human being.

UPASANA

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas (Jamiyatpura, Mahant Swami)

(on the basis of Gadhada Middle Chapter, 09)

Benevolent and merciful Lord Shree Swaminarayan incarnated on this earth. The Lord took the human birth and started living with the human beings. The Lord became a companion like a brother, tied Rakhi on his right wrist on the pious day of Raksha Bandhan and granted assurance of protection of *Dharma*. The Lord addressed the devotees, "Oh Muktas, all living organisms exist on this earth while depending upon others." Many persons concentrate upon their physical development so they perform various types of exercises. Others relish the sweets and accumulate their fat. In the modern age the youngsters remain fit through Gymnastics or aerobics yet their result is very limited. A very tiny poisonous pill can loosen a very strong physique. Therefore, sometimes we feel that an intellectual person is more powerful. Through his intellectual powers, today the man has reached upto the Moon and the Mars, has undertaken many medical researches and has been very successful in the experiments. A man has also been successful in replacement of the human organs. He invented a number of machinery and created innumerable facilities and comforts in life. Yet he is still unhappy. The reason is that, the root lies not in the body or intellect but it is in the mind. Due to depression many persons are found selecting the Path of suicide. For this will power is very significant. And therefore many neuro-physicians and psychiatrists have developed their business like anything. By controlling our six senses, we become powerful mentally and spiritually. When our mind is pacified everything appears very serene. This is a very satisfactory stage of his life. Yet it is not eternal. Something is always felt lacking in. this situation can be dealt with only through strong will power. A person not only becomes stable spiritually but he also develops more capabilities on this noble path.

Now the real power of a man lies in the Almighty Lord. It is at the base of all types and kinds of powers on this earth and in this universe. Happiness and misery of human life are just like tides and ebbs of an ocean. They keep on coming and going in human life. This tide and ebbs keep on increasing their size as well as powers. The stream of love and affection always flows incessantly in such a generous heart. The ardent devotees feel protected against all miseries and fears of life. All types of powers on this earth are created by the Almighty Lord. We are fortunate that we have got the Lord like the Lord Shree Swaminarayan in this life. We have also got the true and effective guidance of the saints. Therefore all should cherish ardent faith and Bhakti towards the Almighty Lord and that is the real Upasana.



SPRITUAL MIRACLES OF ACHARYA MAHARAJ SHRI DEVENDRAPRASADJI

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt

Many incidents of serene and bright personality of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj were published in October-November, 1969. many such incidents are still available well preserved with photographs in 'H.H. Shri Akshar Nivasi Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj'- Special Memorial Issue. The benevolent H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj sent me this issue which was published 40 years. I am really indebted to him for this blessings. In the articles written by many erudite and learned saints and devotees, we get a glimpse of the great personality of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj.

Considering the facilities for the Satsangis, saints, Haribhaktas and students, two huge Dharmshalas (buildings for residence) in Kalupur temple, Shree Narnarayan Building, Shri Ghanshyam Building, two buildings near Asarwa Swaminarayan Baug and a huge building near Sachivalaya at that time were got constructed by him.

He also celebrated Shat-Varshik Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jetalpur on Falgun Vad-8 Samvat 1993, of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Idar on Jeth Sud-11 Samvat 2002, of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Chhapaiya on Jeth Sud-11 Samvat 2007, of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mandvi on Falgun Sud-2 Samvat 2015 and of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Siddhpur on Jeth Sud-11 Samvat 2021. Moreover, he also installed the idol images of the deities following the Vedic rituals at the places Torda, Detroj, Anjar in Kachchh, Sapawada in Sabarkantha and made it convenient for the devotees and Satsangis of these areas to perform Darshan of the Lord.

Huge gate and Sabha Mandap in Chhapaiya temple, arrangement of bore in Ahmedabad temple and Shatkundi Yagna in Naranghat temple were constructed under his guidance. The former Prime Minister of India Shri Morarji Desai and Shri Gulzarilal Nanda had performed *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj. Shankaracharya of Puri and Vaishnavacharya had also come. Even Bhagwatacharya Shri Ramchandra Dongareji Maharaj had also come twice or thrice.

Shree Ramanbhai Bhatt of Lunawada writes, "Maharaj had unique powers of *Vachan-Siddhi*. My service was about to be over therefore I requested him to entrust with me some assignment of rendering services to our Satsang. At that time, he informed me that no one would relieve me from my job and to my surprise I got an extension in service."

Former Mahant of Bhuj temple Swami Dharmjivandas writes, "H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj had graced Kachhchh for six times. In Samvat 1998 invocation of the

Con. from page 10.....

Blessings Of H.H.Acharyamaharaj Shri Vehlal Village

- Compilation Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

In the Sabha organized on the occasion of inauguration of Bhaktaraj Jesingbhai Yatrik Bhuvan and Shree Vrajendraprasad Dwar: Maharaj has asked all of us to remember all the places of *Prasadi* wherever Maharaj had performed divine *Leela*. This grants divine powers to the person. While performing pilgrimage of these places, the devotees should invariably perform *Darshan* of such places of *Prasadi*. And if *Leela-Charitra* of Maharaj is remembered then one can recall the *Leela* of Maharaj performed at this place. This helps greatly to nourish religiosity in life. Devotees Chaitanya munidasji has been organizing small or big programmes.

If we talk about the renovation, then renovation with sand, bricks and cement is easier because once renovation work is completed we need not worry about it for the next 15 to 20 years. Thereafter it demands maintenance. Once renovation work of the temple work is over, the work stops. But there should not be any break in renovation of our life. It was read in one book. This may be true or not. It was stated that, there is a temple in South India. The next incarnation of the Lord i.e. *Kalki Avatar* would take birth in this temple but on condition that renovation work of the temple should continue incessantly. Therefore even today the local devotees keep on renovating the temple. This is a funny thing. But if we think deeply then what we learn from it is that renovation of *Satsang* should be continued incessantly in our life. Earlier there was much worship and *Bhakti* in the devotees towards the Almighty Lord, they had ardent feeling for the saints and there was much chanting of the name of the Almighty Lord through *Mala*. There is benefit if this worship keeps on increasing and there is loss if the worship is decreased. Here we are not talking about our daily *pooja, archan, aarti, stuti, niyam-chestha* etc. this has to be done regularly by every one. What we are talking about is special worship and *Satsang-Bhakti*. Satsang and Bhakti never stop. If we feel at any time that, now we have performed sufficient Satsang and Bhakti then even Maharaj would cherish the feeling that, now His work on this earth is over. Only those who continuously perform Satsang and Bhakti can have realization of the Almighty Lord. The persons who remain in worship of the Lord get the Almighty Lord in their lives. Maharaj has asked for everything for us and whatever miseries we have in our life, they are due to our own actions.

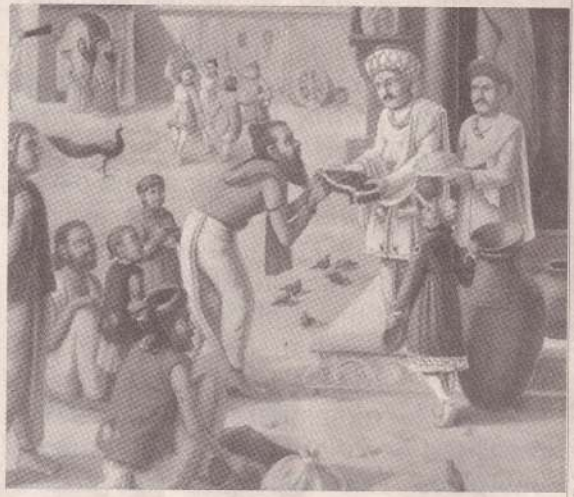
In our past lives, we have been related to many persons differently. Sometimes, as father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife or any other relative. But if we remain ardent devotees of Maharaj, then it is certain that, Maharaj would become our own. Our real love towards the Almighty Lord is our real wealth. A big businessman always thinks about his own business. Similarly if we keep on thinking about Maharaj then our love and worship towards Maharaj keeps on increasing and only that is of real worth. It is an humble prayer at the lotus like feet of Maharaj that the Lord may fulfill the wishes of the host families and all the devotees.

NAM DHARMADO-HIGHWAY TO HAPPINESS

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

Just as a king collects revenues for the welfare of his subject, Shreeji Maharaj himself has divided His Desh into two North (Ahmedabad Desh) and South (Vadtal Desh) of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and the Lord Shree Laxminarayandev. All the amounts of Dharmada which are deposited by the Haribhaktas and the devotees are utilized for the maintenance of the temples; activities of the development and progress of Satsang are also organized and undertaken. The work of the temples is not completed with invocation of the idol images of the deities because there is much greater management of one temple which has to be looked after carefully and meticulously. The expenses incurred towards maintenance of these temples are met with from the amount of Dharmada as and when required. If we take out 1/10th or 1/20th portion of our income for Dev, our remaining money and the wealth created from such money becomes Shree Laxmi and this money becomes the money of Prasadi. Such Laxmi grants us Sattvik hapiness.

Many times the government recovers its outstanding dues from the people with penalty. Similarly if we do not deposit our portion of Dharmada with the temple, such money is spent in unnecessary expenses behind medical treatment or legal advice of an



advocate or the same may also be stolen away by the thief. Moreover, what we lose is our mental peace and health. Therefore, it is advisable and always beneficial to render services to the Almighty God and to obtain His pleasure. In the words of our H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, when we cannot digest the money of other people, how can we digest the money which is of the Almighty Lord!!!

To take out the portion of Dev from our income is not an act of Punya because it is in fact the portion of the Dev. And if we do not take out this portion then we turn out to be a thief. After taking out the portion of Dev, we have with us 90% or 95% of our income. From this amount we can perform any of the good deeds of our choice such as rendering services to

the saints, for construction of the temple, Gau Seva, services to the deceased persons, services for education, services for humanity etc.

Dharmada is mandatory whereas noble acts of rendering services are optional. Shree Hari has stated that it is directed in our scriptures to take out 1/10th portion for Maharaj and we must follow it scrupulously. There is no any alternative to it. If we do not do so, then we accumulate our sins five times it. From this direction of Shree Hari it appears that every Satsangi should regularly take out either 1/10th or 1/20th portion of their income towards Dharmada and should deposit it with the Kothar of the concerned temple of our Sampraday; H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj is the care-taker of our Satsang and Sampradaya under instructions of Shree Hari. Therefore only those temples and Hari-Mandirs which have obtained written permission of Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj to accept such amounts from the devotees and Haribhakta, can accept it. For example one temple is under construction subordinate to Main Deity of the temple; now the devotees of the neighbouring areas and villages are not capable financially and this may be an obstacle for construction of the temple then considering the local requirements and circumstances, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj may grant such powers either on permanent or temporary basis (for a particular period of time).

In one letter of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj, it is written as under:

"If there is a need to construct a residence for the saints then a Dharmshala can be constructed but not a single rupee should be spent for this purpose from the amount taken out towards Dharmada. If one wishes to render services for the clothes or the meals, it can be done but again these expenses should not be incurred from the amount meant for Dharmada. We have granted all the temples of the Lord Shree Narnarayan, Lord Shree



Laxminarayan and the Lord Shree Radha Krishna to Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj. All the expenses of these temples cannot be met with from this income, therefore the amount taken out towards Dharmada should be utilized for these temples only and not for any other purpose. Those who do not follow these directions are not real Satsangi and they would be deemed to have betrayed us."

It is felt necessary to write article on *Dharmada* on regular interval in our

'Shree Swaminarayan' magazine. Following the directions of great persons, devotees and *Haribhaktas* perform special *Vratas* during the pious *Chatur Maas* or *Dhanur Maas*; they would scrupulously follow most of the directions of *'Shiksha-Patri'* but when it comes to rendering services for the purpose of *Dharmada* as directed in Shloka-212 of the same *'Shiksha-Patri'* then no one pays due attention to it. In fact with the passage of time, our devotees should also increase the amount of *Dharmada*.

Woman and Wealth are the two visible forms of *Maya*, and one cannot forsake either of them so easily. If a person has genuine and ardent faith towards his *Istadev* (personal god) and trust in the words of the Almighty Lord then such a person cannot be defeated by *Maya* because both *Kaal* and *Maya* are subservient to Shree Hari.

At last just an humble request to all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* that, as per the tradition established and continued from the time of the Lord Shree Hari, they should take out some portion of their income towards *Naam-Dharmada*. Names of such devotees are written permanently in the Accounts Books of our *Sampradaya* and they are considered to be *Grihasthi Satsangi Haribhaktas*.

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SPRITUAL MIRACLES OF ACHARYA MAHARAJ SHRI DEVENDRAPRASADJI

idol image of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was performed by him. Maha Rao Shri Vijayrajji had invited Acharya Maharaj in his Darbar and this Satsang continued for one hour."

Considering the ardent request of the devotees of Kachhia village, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj had graced the houses of the devotees. Meanwhile there was rain; but the programme of grace of Acharya Maharaj continued. One house was closed; on inquiry it was learnt that the devotee had gone to the temple to perform Darshan. So Acharya Maharaj himself opened the door of the house and sanctified the house with his lotus like Charanarvind.

Due to health related problems, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj used to stay in Mount Abu. In Samvat 2025 his health deteriorated suddenly and on Aaso Sud-01 12/10/2969, he passed away to Akshardham leaving behind the crying Satsang. At that time he was just 47 years old. He remained on the seat of Acharya for 32 years. In the Shok-Sabha organized at that time, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj had uttered these words, *"Our father has preached us to talk and address any saint with respect. Cherish benevolence and generosity towards all. Lord Sahjanand Swami has established seat of Acharya in our Dharmkul so our behaviour and conduct should be befitting to it; and never be proud."* So great and yet so generous and humble was our H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj.

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 31

One shall never take medicine which contains alcohol or meat, nor take medicine from an unknown physician.

Manusmruti explains a course of action for such sin: 'Those who partake of medicines which contain liquor even accidentally should perform the ritual of purification –Sanskar.' **Marichi Smruti** says, 'Those who partake of medicines containing flesh (animal extracts) should perform Taptakruchravrata or order to redeem one's sins.' *Taptakrucharvrata* is a very strict course of fasting involving numerous days of consecutive fasting amongst other purification rituals.

The Lord instructs that we go only to those doctors who are reputed, who have complete knowledge in the field of medicine and pharmacy. Only such *Ayur Vedic* doctors who are versed in herbal remedies should be consulted and not those who are likely to prescribe alternatives containing liquor or animal contents.

As mentioned, there is a science of Medicine in Vedic terms. Our great Hindu Sanatam Dharma have many subjects of study all stemming from the Vedas. Shastras speak of sixty-four such sciences and arts which Lord Shree Krishna is famed to have mastered in merely sixty-four days. Many of these sciences have western equivalents and indeed these western equivalents are often based on our Hindu teaching: **Ayur Shastra** (study of medicine), **Jyotisha Shastra** (Astronomy), **Shilpa Shastra** (Architecture), **Gandharva Shastra** (music and dance), **Dhanur Shastra** (military strategic science), **Niti Shastra** (politics) etc.

Ayur Veda is much more than just Medicine, it is the '*Art and Science*' of healthy living, which utilizes foods, spices, herbs, colours, metals, gems and sound to overcome illnesses, promoting health of the body, clarify of the mind and tranquility of the spirit. It is believed to be the oldest system of medicine in the world. It is also believed that our Ayur Veda influences the Chinese system of medicine. Indeed its influence can be recognized all over the world.

Ayur Veda Shastra in its true sense is brilliant as it does not promote the use of alcohol or flesh as a means of curing illnesses. For this reason the Lord forbids the use of such medicines when vegetarian and non-alcoholic substitutes exist. Those who are knowledgeable in our old Ayur Veda system of medicine can also provide such alternative though. Therefore only these Docotors should be referred to; who are able to prescribe alternatives.

IMPORTANCE OF GANGA

- Patel Gandabhai Mohanlal (Kolhapur)

Once the Lord Shree Narnarayan went to take bath in the river Ganga. After performing Snan-Sandhya, he returned to Ashram. The Lord observed Mandakini Ganga flowing gorgeously and asked her, "*Oh, Mandakini! Why do you appear so enthusiastic today?*"

Mandakini replied proudly, "*Oh, Munivarya! I have touched the pious feet of the Lord Vaman and therefore I have been absolved off all my sins. I have received divine powers. And therefore all the persons who take bath in my water, get absolved off their sins. I, therefore, consider myself very lucky and I am very enthusiastic.*"

Listening these words, the Lord Shree Narnarayandev said, "*Oh lucky river. You have touched the feet of the Lord Vaman only once; and it is not a surprise for a Yogi like me to take bath in your water. Moreover, Aksharadhipati Lord Shree Purushottam Narayan is different from Vaman Avatar. Until you have any face to face meeting with Lord Narayan, it is not proper for you to be so proud.*"

Listening this, Mandakini felt ashamed and her pride melted down like an ice before the fire. She asked, "*What should I do to perform Darshan of the Lord Shree Purushottam Narayan.*" The Lord said, "*Oh, Kalyani! You will take human birth in Panchal region and shall have luck to touch the lotus like feet of Shree Hari.*" Shree Narayan Muni resumed His *Vicharan* and Mandakini started flowing while wishing to perform Tapa.

At the same time, at his residence in Somnath mountain in Panchal region, Vankayan Rishi expressed his desire that, "*Mandakini may take birth as his daughter and this may grant emancipation to the whole family.*" As a result of the blessings of the Lord Narayan, Mandakini took birth as a daughter of Rishi Vankayan and his wife Rama. Both of them were very much pleased. Like father, the daughter was also very religious and she liked to perform Tapa; therefore her name was kept Balyogini. Day and night, the daughter started performing Tapa and everyone addressed her like holy river Ganga. Rishi Naradji was very much pleased with the austere *Tapa-Sadhana* of this little child. Naradji asked her wish. Balyogini said, "*Oh, Munivarya! I intend to have eternal divine relationship with Aksharadhipati Purushottam Lord Shree Swaminarayan. This is my ardent desire.*"

Naradji was very much pleased to hear this. He blessed her, "*Your divine desire would be fulfilled. Leave this human birth and start flowing on the earth as a river, reach to the place Gadhda and there you will have divine Darshan of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and thereby you will be able to establish divine relationship with the Lord.*"

Balyogini believed in the blessings of Munivarya Naradji and started performing austere *Tapa-Sadhana*. In the course of time, she left the human body and started flowing from a mountain of Vankiya village near Somnath. Simultaneously, Mandavya Rishi was performing Tapa in Salemaal mountain to sanctify his Ashram of Mandavdhar village with the pious water of holy river Ganga. During his childhood, this Mandaya Rishi had killed an insect with a straw. At that time his age was just five years. As a result of that sin, at later age, unknowingly he had sheltered the thieves and the king had hanged him alongwith the thieves. When Rishi asked Yamraja, "For which of my sin I was hanged? The sin committed innocently during his child play cannot invite such a punishment. So Oh Dharmraja, I curse you that, you take birth as a Shudra."

Rishi Mandha returned to his Ashram but he was not at ease. Therefore, he went to the mountain Salemal mountain and started performing *Tapa-Sadhana*. As a result of his Tapa-Sadhana, river Ganga started flowing and sanctified the Ashram of the Rishi. Rishi took the holy water from the river and sanctified himself. The river went ahead and reached upto the steps of temple of Nord Nilkanth

Mahadev. There one Brahmin was performing austere Tapa-Sadhana and was waiting for the holy river. When the river came there, the Brahmin took bath into it and sanctified himself. This Nilkanth Brahmin was a favourite person of the king of Panchal Desh. The king was very benevolent and always good for his subject. Once there was drought in his kingdom. The initial period was passed with the help and assistance from his colleagues, friends and relatives, all of them were very rich. The king was very generous; but the queen was very proud. She asked other ladies of other caste to live as her maid because her husband had granted them a new life during the period of crisis.

Once Nilkanth Brahmin was taking bath on the bank of the well and his brother was fetching water from the well. Suddenly he fell down. Immediately Nilkanth rushed to him and took him out but by the time the brother had passed away. The king presumed that, the brother died due to carelessness of Nilkanth Brahmin. So he was punished and thrown out of the village. The perturbed Nilkanth Brahmin came to the temple, started performing austere Tapa Sadhana in the temple premises and cherished a Sankalp in his mind that, if he is innocent, then the holy Ganga river would sanctify him by touching his feet and would absolve him off the allegation of the so called sin. As a result of strong Sankalp and austere Tapa-Sadhana of this Nilkanth Brahmin, the holy river Ganga started flowing in the region, touched the feet of the innocent Brahmin and sanctified him.

The river Ganga started flowing towards the outskirts of Gadhpur. She took rest at the outskirts and started awakening the people of Gadhpur. There was no limit to her pleasure. Now she was eager to fulfill her ardent desire. In her mind she was cherishing the name of the Almighty Shree Purushottam Narayan and was waiting for Him patiently. Now she was serene and started flowing silently.

During this time, accepting the ardent request and desire of Ebhal Khachar of Gadhda Darbar, Shree Sahjanand Swami graced Gadhda along with Anant Mukta. The moment eyes of the Lord Shree Hari and holy river Ganga met, the river started flowing joyously. Now she had become eager to be sanctified by touching the lotus-like feet of the Lord. The Lord asked her to be patient: "*I have come to sanctify you only. When you would be sanctified, you would be able to sanctify others who take bath in your water.*" But the holy river was not in a mood to listen and she started flowing joyously touching the feet of not only the Lord Shree Swaminarayan but also all other Muktas and Haribhaktas. Shreeji Maharaj said to Ebhal Darbar, "Oh, Haribhakta, it appears that, today the holy river Ganga has no bound to her pleasure." Ebhal Khachar replied, "Oh, Lord, now the holy river Ganga would always flow proudly and incessantly."

Shreeji Maharaj stood up amidst the flow of the holy river and addressed all the devotees, "Listen, Muktas and Haribhaktas! This is the same holy river Mandakini which is flowing in Badrikashram where Shree Narnarayan performs Snan-Sandhya regularly. It is the same holy river Ganga, who has been sanctified by the lotus like feet of Vaman Avatar. It is the same holy Mandakini, who performed austere Tapa-Sadhana to have divine relationship with Us and as a result thereof today she is flowing here in the outskirts of Gadhpur. We address him as Unmat Ganga."

Addressing the devotees thus, Shreeji Maharaj performed Abhyang Snan. All other Muktas and Haribhaktas followed Shreeji Maharaj and then all graced Darbar of Ebhal Khachar.

Therefore all the devotees should remember that, those who perform Darshan of this holy Mandakini river would be absolved off all his sins, they would have divine relationship with Shreeji Maharaj through this holy river and would get Akshardham in the end.

SATSANG VICHARAN IN BANGKOK- A REPORT
(4th to 9th November 2009)

- Rajnibhai Patel (Bangkok)

Bangkok city of Thailand is famous for its diamond and colour stone industries. The country Thailand is also replete with Indian culture. For the last two to three generations, Gujarati Satsangis have settled in Thailand. Earlier, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had granted the benefit of Satsang to the devotees during his childhood as H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. The ardent devotees Shri Rajnibhai Patel, Shri Pragjibhai Bhikadia had been inviting H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj for the last two three years. They were eagerly waiting for Maharaj. Therefore considering the request of the devotees, alongwith Shastri P.P. Swami of Jetalpur, Shastri Hariomprakashdasji Swami, Swami Vishwaprakashdasji, and Parshad Vanraj Bhagat, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj graced Bangkok on 04/11/2009. they were warmly welcomed on the airport and their stay was arranged at the residence of the devotee Shri Rajnibhai Patel. All the diamond merchants and devotees used to come for Darshan and Poojan and as per the convenience, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj used to grace their house as well as the office.

On 07/11/2009 a public Satsang Sabha was kept in Indo Thai Hall. More than three hundred devotees attended the Sabha on time and availed the benefit of *Satsang*. Many dignitaries had attended the Sabha to avail the benefit of Darshan of 7th successor of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Shri P.P. Swami and Hariom Swami narrated *Katha-Varta*. No one had left the hall of *Satsang Sabha* before time.

On 08/11/2009, Satsang was organized in Dev Mandir at 9.30 hours in the morning wherein many Indian devotees had availed the benefit Katha-Darshan. On 5-6-8 House Satsang was organized wherein many devotees had availed the benefit of Darshan and blessings.

On 08/11/2009, a Satsang Sabha was organized at night at the residence of the devotee Shri Pragjibhai Bhikadiya. In the memory of Satsang Vicharan Yatra, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj gave directions to the devotees to conduct Satsang Sabha on every Sunday which was warmly welcomed by all the devotees and Haribhaktas. Devotee Shri Pragjibhai Bhikadiya accompanied H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj not only upto the airport but upto Mumbai.

BHAKTI SUDHA

TRUST IN WORDS

SANKHYAYOGI KOLILABA
(SURENDRANAGAR)

Saints have been telling that, we have got this human birth only to meet Maharaj. Those who are prudent, should not copy others blindly. The persons who perform worship continuously, get Almighty Lord in their life. This is impossible without *Bhajan* and *Saint-Samagam.* Just as the birth of a child is impossible without a man and a woman, meeting with Shreeji Maharaj is impossible without true saint. Just as the agricultural land remains dry without the rains, the human heart remains dry without *Saint-samagam*. When one gets a real saint, noble qualities of Dharma and Gyan develop in his life. In Vachanamrit-62 of Middle Chapter, Shreeji Maharaj has stated that, any soul who has sought shelter in the Almighty Lord, gets emancipation in human life. But for that one should have trust in the Almighty Lord and ***trust in words*** of saints.

There was one Hariram Mali in Junagadh. He was the servant-cum-attendant of Nawab of Junagadh. The servant was a sinner by his Karma. He used to kill many innocent lives, and to offer the meat to his master. Once on the pious day of Janmastmi, all the people of the city went to Shree Swaminarayan temple to perform Darshan of the Almighty Lord. The servant Hariram Malo also came to the temple to perform *Darshan*. At that time, the saints were reading 62nd Vachanamrit of Gadhda Middle Chapter. Hariram heard that, if any person seeks shelter in the Almighty Lord, all his sins are washed off. Listening this, Hariram started thinking. He thought to be *Satsangi* of Shree Hari through the saint. Immediately he rushed towards the saint, fell at his feet and started crying and confessed all the sins of his Karma. He ardently requested the saint to accept him as a *satsangi*. The saint was benevolent. He asked Hariram to observe five *Vartamaan*, as prescribed in Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. Hariram took oath to observe the five *Vartamaan* scrupulously. Gradually he became an ardent devotee. Every morning he used to bring flowers and make beautiful ornaments of Maharaj from these flowers and offer them at the lotus like feet of the Almighty Lord. Everyday he used to perform *Sant-samagam* and to listen *Katha-Varta* from the saint. He got serenity and divine peace of mind in his life.

Later on at the end of his life Maharaj took him to Akshardham. Thus, those who cherish ardent faith in the Lord, they get washed off all their sins and at last get a permanent place in Akshardham. With Samgam of a saint, one gets real knowledge about Atma and Paramatma. When one performs *Bhajan-Bhakti* of the Almighty Lord after obtaining this knowledge, Mahatma is pleased with such a person.

Wherever there is Truth, there are *Dharma, Niti* and Happiness of life. Even the Almighty Lord resides there. Wherever there is cunningness, there is *Kaliyug*. But the people of this world do not understand this so easily and they roam here and there for *Kirti* (fame) leaving *Murti* (idol image of the Almighty Lord). Therefore one should be alert and should make sincere efforts to get Almighty Lord with *Samagam* of a saint. This *Atma* would get eternal peace only when there is union with Almighty Lord. And for that what is required is *Samagam* of a real *Sadguru* and *Satsang*. There is need to have trust in the words saint and ardent faith in Almighty Lord.

JATANBA OF DANGARWA
- Patel Anandiben Vishnubhai
(Gulabpura)

Shree Hari was in Langhnaj. From Langhnaj, Shree Hari sent two persons and sent the message of grace of Shree Hari. One person went to Karjisan village and conveyed the message of Maharaj that the next day Maharaj would grace the village Karjisan. Another person went to Dangarwa village and conveyed the message of Maharaj that the next day Maharaj would grace the village Dangarwa.

On receiving this message, Sangh of both the villages started preparation to perform Samaiya of Shree Hari. There is a huge banyan tree on the meeting points of the roads leading towards Dangarwa and Karjisn From Langhnaj. Sangh of both the villages came there waiting for Maharaj. Shreeji Maharaj came at the meeting point, alongwith Paramhamsa and devotees. Now a dispute started between the Sangh of both the villages, on the issue which village would be graced first by Maharaj-Dangarwa or Karjisan? Maharaj sent Muktanand Swami and Brahmanand Swami to resolve the dispute. But the dispute had reached at such a stage that, the Sangh of both the villages could not be persuaded in any way and no solution could be arrived at. At last Maharaj himself took a decision. Maharaj climbed up the banyan tree and let loose his horse Manki. Maharaj informed both the Sangh that, he would grace that village first in whose direction his horse walks. This condition of Maharaj was accepted by both the leading devotees-Jatanba of Dangarwa and Govindbhai of Karjisan. Manki walked towards village Dangarwa. So Maharaj decided to first grace the village Dangarwa. Govindbhai of Karjisan stated in fun that, Manki being female favoured another female devotee Jatanba. Both the Sangh came to Dangarwa. Jatanba warmly welcomed Maharaj.

Shree Hari reminded Jatanba that, earlier she had promised to offer Snan of milk and buttermilk to Maharaj and his Paramhamsa and asked her to bring milk and buttermilk in huge quantity. Maharaj also told that, now it was her test. Jatanba replied smilingly that, it was also the test of Shreeji Maharaj. If the milk and buttermilk would not be sufficient then it would convey the message to the public at large that in spite of the presence of Shreeji Maharaj, there was found lack of milk and buttermilk. Shree Hari smiled at this. In the village, abundant milk and buttermilk were offered to Shreeji Maharaj and Paramhamsa. With the blessings of Maharaj, the quantity was more than required.

With the noble intention of Jatanba, the whole Dangarwa village became Satsangi and the village is considered among prominent Satsangi villages of Dandhavya Desh. The credit of this Satsang in the village goes to the devotees Jatanba, Agaroji and Amaraji.

Once Ratanba went to Gadhadha to perform Darshan of Maharaj. When she was asked, "Who are you?" she replied, "I am Atma." Now to test this statement, Maharaj asked her to bring the burning coal in her hands. Since Jatanba was beyond the condition of this world, she took the burning coals in her hands. Hail the great devotee Jatanba.

PERFORM BHAJAN BEING KARMYOGI
- Tarlaben Atulbhai Pothiwala
(Ahmedabad)

With the blessings and mercy of the Almighty Lord Shreeji Maharaj, many people of different caste and religion of not

only Gujarat but also of the whole country had become ardent devotees and Satsangi.

One devotee Thakordas was residing in Dhuva village of Uttar Pradesh. His wife was Dhanubai. Both the husband and the wife had become ardent devotees of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and they used to perform *Bhajan* and *Bhakti* of the Almighty Lord regularly. Both of them decided that, though the world views them as a husband and a wife living a social life but they would observe *Brahmcharya* in their lives. Thus they decided to observe staunch *Sankhya Yoga* and determined to observe *Brahmcharya*.

Both of them started living accordingly; however it was like walking on the edge of a sword. Witnessing their great Tyaag, all the devotees and saints started praising them. But the other people of this world started abusing, "*Oh, let us meet this great couple, who are living together and yet they are observing Brahmcharya. If they wanted to observe Brahmcharya. Really this Satsang of Lord Shree Swaminarayan is very strange.*"

Shree Hari could not tolerate such abuse of His ardent devotees. He also did not like that his devotees behave contrary to the duties laid down for a *Grihasthi* and start observing *Brahmcharya*. It was not proper.

Once the Lord Shree Swaminarayan himself came to this devotee couple. Looking at Maharaj, there was no bound to their pleasure. The devotees started rendering services to Maharaj, they offered a pious seat to Maharaj and started poojan-archan of Maharaj. Brought cold water from the kitchen and offered it to Maharaj. Maharaj accepted the services and asked them to take their seat beside him; then preached them as under:

"Now your Nishkam-Karma is over and both of you have scrupulously followed this Vrata, so believe in it. From now onwards we release you from this path of Sankhya Yoga. A Grihasthi, who performs his duties well, is also like a Sankhya-Yogi. When two persons have married each other in the presence of a Brahmin, while following all the rituals and thereafter they perform duties of a Grihasthi, then there is nothing wrong in it. They are equal in status with Sankhya yogi and a Tyagi. Therefore, now both of you shall forsake this *Vrata of Brahmcharya* and shall live a life of a Grihasthi. Be Karmyogi and worship Maharaj."

In this way, Shreeji Maharaj directed these devotees to conclude their *Vrata of Brahmcharya* and blessed them. The husband and the wife performed Dandvat Pranam to Maharaj and promised to follow the directions of Maharaj scrupulously to perform *Bhajan* being *Karmyogi*.

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PARVATBHAI OF AGATRAI
- Aartiben Panara (Rajkot)

During his time, Maharaj had started about 20 *Sadavrata*. A tradition was also developed in this regard that, in case of need of the grains and other grocery items, it should be collected from the nearby villages. One day grains were required for Sadavrata of Loj village. Muktanand Swami conveyed this requirement to Maharaj. Immediately Maharaj asked him to accompany him to collect the grains from the nearby villages.

Both of them came to village Agatrai, situated near Keshod. One Kanbi Patel Parvatbhai was residing there. He was a farmer by occupation and also a Satsangi. He was also an old disciple of Ramanand Swami. He was present at the time of first meeting of Maharaj with Ramanand Swami at Piplana. Maharaj himself had come for the grains and therefore he was very much pleased. He took Maharaj inside his home, showed all the grains which he had. He offered all the grains to Maharaj and made

the arrangements for the cart to carry the grains. He loaded the cart with the grains and sent two persons with Maharaj to look after the carts.

Muktanand Swami was very much pleased to observe the ardent worship of the devotee. Swami stated that, now there were sufficient grains with them and they need not go anywhere else for it. Maharaj said, "You have emptied everything which you had, but have you kept something to subsist your family." Maharaj thought that, grains of at least one year should be preserved for exigency. The devotee immediately said that, whatever he has that is due to mercy and blessings of the Almighty Lord and whatever he earns in life is also due to Almighty Lord therefore the first right over these grains is of Maharaj. Because everything belongs to Maharaj.

The devotee Parvatbhai had farms in three villages- Agatrai, Kalvani and Manavadar. He used to look after the agriculture in all the three villages but since he met Maharaj in Agatrai, he became famous as Parvatbhai of Agatrai.

Once he was tilling his field in the rainy season. It was the time of *Pooja*. Now it was not possible for him to perform *Pooja*; therefore he started *Manas-Pooja* while tilling the field simultaneously. During his Samadhi, the devotee Parvatbhai was offering the loaf and the curd. He was offering the meals and Maharaj was accepting it. During his Samadhi, Parvatbhai forgot his work of tilling the field. The reined bullocks could not be controlled and guided properly. The companion of Parvatbhai thought that the devotee was dozing in the afternoon. So he shook him to wake him up. Here in Samadhi, Parvatbhai was holding a bowl of curd in his hand. On being shaken, the curd was dropped down on the earth. The companion was surprised to see the curd on the back of the bullocks and on the field. When he asked, the devotee Parvatbhai informed him that, Maharaj had come there, he was offering the meals to Maharaj and Maharaj was accepting it. Some portion is accepted by Maharaj and some portion dropped down on the earth!!! In one minute, a miracle happened in the life of this devotee. His *Sankalp* was realized.

Once Mayaram Bhatt brought the message of Maharaj from Gadhada in the form of a letter. In the letter, Maharaj had asked Parvatbhai to immediately come to Gadhda. Immediately Parvatbhai completed his preparation and started walking calling Mayaram Bhatt. Mayaram Bhatt came to know that, his son was very sick and perhaps in the last stage of his life. So Mayaram Bhatt asked Parvatbhai not to take any decision in hurry and to think twice. But the devotee Parvatbhai was determined in his decision. He told his neighbours and the villagers that in case of an unlucky event of the demise of his death, they may perform the funeral rituals even in his absence, but he cannot disobey the directions of Shree Hari to immediately reach to Gadhda. When Parvatbhai reached the outskirts of the village, he saw one villager running behind him; Parvatbhai understood that, his son had passed away. Therefore, he asked the person not be so unhappy as Maharaj had taken his son to Akshardham and now they can perform the funeral rituals. And Parvatbhai dived into the river, crossed it and vanished away in the horizon on the path leading towards Gadhada. How prudent devotee Parvatbhai was!!!

NEWS AND NOTES FROM SHRI NARNARAYANDEV DESH

Ramnagar (Tal. Kalol)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji of Naranghat and Sadguru Swami Purushottam prakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami) Akshar Nivasi Narandas Punjiram Patel family-devotees Shri Patel Prabhubhai Narandas, Patel Amrutbhai Narandas and Dr. Chimandas Narandas had organized on 08/11/2009 Prabhat Feri at 5.30 a.m., Shree Swaminarayan Maha Mantra Dhoon from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. and Satsang Katha Pravachan fom 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. on the occasion of Jivat Charya of their mother Ganga Swaroop Patel Santokben Narandas. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishna dasji was the spokesperson of the Katha. Accepting the invitation of the host family, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced the occasion alongwith the saints and had blessed the host family

(Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdas)

New Vadaj Temple

A beautiful *Hatdi* was organized in front of Thakorji on the pious day of Prabodhini Ekadashi in Shree Swaminarayan temple, New Vadaj. Group Mahapooja was conducted from 8.00 to 12.30. Shri Gopalbhai Shastri had performed beautiful rituals. The devotee Shri Prof. Rameshbhai Jethabhai Koria family had rendered the services as Chief host and the devotee Shri Ashokbhai Nagjibhai Patel had rendered services as co-host of this occasion. About 85 ladies and gents devotees had availed the benefit of Mahapooja.

(Shambhubhai Hirjibhai Patel)

Invocation ritual of the idol images in Kharol (Panchmahal) temple

On completion of work of Hari Mandir of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev Diocese at village Kharol of Panchmahal district, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj had performed the invocation ritual of the idol images in Vedic tradition. On this occasion, Shrimad Bhagwat Dasham Skanda Parayan was organized from 29/10/2009 to 31/10/2009. Sadguru Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji Guru Sadguru Swami Suryaprakashdasji was the spokes person of Parayan.

When H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion along with the saints, the whole village had performed Samaiyu. Invocation of the idol image of Thakorji was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Vedic tradition. After performing the concluding ritual of Katha, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the Sabha. The host families of this occasion had performed poojan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings.

Thereafter Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple, Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji, Purani Swami Hariswaroopdasji etc. saints had delivered beautiful speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the

whole Sabha. All the responsibilities of the whole Utsav as well as construction of the temple were shouldered by Purani Swami Hari swaroopdasji who was honoured by the whole village with utmost gratitude. *(Kothari Dilipbhai)*

Satsang Sabha in Jivraj Park-Meghaninagar

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Sabha is organized at night on every Ekadashi in Jivraj Park and Meghaninagar areas. Shastri Vishwaswaroopdas conducts this Sabha wherein he explains the importance of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj. He also explains to all the devotees to increase ardent faith in the Lord Shri Narnarayandev. *(Dhananjay Patel)*

Kapadwanj

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji, Group Maha Pooja, Annakut Darshan were organized on the occasion of first annual Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kapadwanj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Patotsav ritual of Thakorji. Haribhaktas had availed the benefit of Darshan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had also obtained the blessings by performing Charan-sparsh. In the Sabha organized on the occasion Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji and Nana P.P. Swami had explained the importance of the Almighty Lord and Dharmvanshi. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha. Poojari Lalbhai and Haribhaktas had rendered beautiful services. *(Kothari Dr.Jayraj Trivedi)*

Balasinor

With the blessings of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shastri Swami Vishwaswroopdasji, grand Tulsi Vivah was organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balasinor. Right from the morning on the pious day of *Ekadashi Ganesh Sthapan*, ritual of *Mandap Muhurt* and *Varghodo* of the Lord was organized at four o'clock in the afternoon. After returning to the temple, ritual of *Tulsi Vivah* was performed by *Bhudev* in a very grand manner. On this occasion *Yuvak Mandal* had rendered very beautiful services.

(Ramesh Bhagat)

Shree Swaminarayan temple (Darbar) Dangarwa

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Sadguru Swami Vasudevcharandasji, grand Annakut was offered to Thakorji on the pious day of Aaso Vad Diwali. On Aasu Vad-14, *Maruti Yagna* was performed in front of Hanumanji. All the devotees of the village had availed the benefit of Darshan. *(Dabhi Mafaji)*

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan in Uvarsad

Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies) completed 108 years. The temple was in a dilapidated condition. Therefore with the blessings of H.H. Shri Gadiwala, ladies devotees cherished the noble intention of construction of a new temple. Accordingly with the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was organized from 21/10/2009 to 25/10/2009. Sadguru

Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji (Vadnagar) was the spokesperson of the Parayan.

On this occasion, H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Gadiwala had granted to the ladies, the benefit of Darshan.

When H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the occasion, the whole village had performed Samiyu. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Aarti of Thakorji and had also performed aarti of concluding ritual of Parayan. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Shri P.P. Swami had delivered beautiful speeches. At last while blessing the whole Sabha H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj stated that, this is the difference between the common people and the devotees in this world. By listening Katha during the pious day of Diwali, the devotees had done a very commendable work because this is the real work which is to be done even at the end of life. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the devotees for expeditious completion of construction work of the temple

(Ghanshyambhai S. Patel)

OVERSEAS NEWS

SANJOSHE I.S.S.O. CHAPTER

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a *Satsang Sabha* was conducted on the pious day of Kali-Chaudas 17 October at the residence of the devotee Shri Dilipbhai Trivedi. Muni Swami of Dholka had narrated the *Katha* on this occasion. All the *Haribhaktas* had performed *Kirtan, Bhakti, Dhoon* and *Aarti*. Muni Swami had explained the importance of *Kali Chaudas* as well as *Poojan* of Hanumanji on this pious day. At last all the devotees had performed together *Path* of *Shree Hanuman Chalisa* and *aarti* of Hanumanji.

On the pious occasions of Diwali and New Year, a Satsang Sabha was organized on 18 October at 3.30 hours in the afternoon in Free Mount Hindu temple. In the *Satsang Sabha, Katha, Vaarta, Kirtan, Bhakti* and *Dhoon* were performed. Shri Muni Swami had narrated beautiful stories about *Shree Hari Leelamrut* and had furnished very valuable information about the festival of *Dipawali*. On this occasion beautiful series of light was organized around the Throne of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and *Annakut* of various items was offered to the Lord. This Satsang Sabha was organized by the devotees Shri Urjit Trivedi and Shri Pavan Soni. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, activity of Satsang is going on very well.

(Prashant Dholakiya)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, various festivals were celebrated by the saints and the devotees on the occasion of *Dipotsavi*. Grand *Annakutotsav* was offered to Thakorji on the pious occasion of *Dhan-Teras* and *Chopda Poojan* of *Dipawali*. On this occasion Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Muni Swami and Mahant Swami Gyanjeevandasji of Colonia

temple had preached beautiful moral stories. A large number of devotees and Haribhaktas had availed the benefit of *Annakut-Darshan* and *Katha*.

Beautiful arrangement of *Maruti Yagna* was made on Saturday in front of the Lord Shree Hanumanji Maharaj. The rituals of *Yagna* continued for four hours and all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* had availed the benefit of *Darshan*. *(Pravinbhai Shah)*

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vihokan

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, *Poojan* of Hanumanji and ritual of *Chopda Poojan* were performed in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, New Jersey during the week-end on the occasion of *Diwali*. On this occasion, Mahant Swami Shastri Madhavprasaddasji had explained the importance of Shri Hanumanji. He had also described very beautifully importance of Shree Hanumanji and *Chopda Poojan-Sharda Poojan*. A large number of devotees had availed the benefit of *Darshan* on this occasion. *(Pravinbhai)*

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Hyustan

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Shri K.P. Swami, each of our festivals are celebrated very enthusiastically. On the pious day of *Vijaya Dashmi* 37th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was celebrated by all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* with great fervour and enthusiasm. It was also the Foundation Day of our I.S.S.O., there was special fervour and pleasure on this occasion. All the devotees and Haribhaktas had performed poojan-archan of photo image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

On the pious day of *Sharad Poornima*, beautiful *Raas, Garba* and a progremme of *Dudh-Pauva* were organized in the temple. On the occasion of *Dipotsavi, Annakutotsav* was offered to Thakorji and *aarti* was performed. On the new year day, *Aarti* of Thakorji was performed at 6.00 o'clock in the morning wherein thousands of devotees had availed the benefit of Darshan. *(Rameshbhai Patel)*

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Straugvill (America)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and inspiration of Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji and under the guidance of Mahant Harinandandasji and the young Haribhaktas, a Satsang Sabha was organized on the pious day of Kartik Sud-11 Saturday in the evening from 7.00 to 11.00 hours.

On Sunday, 1st November 2009, Jaan of the Lord Vishnu was organized from Columbus and great procession of Thakorji was also organized in the temple. Riual of Vivah of the Almighty Lord was performed in the premises of the temple. Devotees Shri Manishbhai Upadhyay and Anand Upadhyay had rendered their services as the hosts. On this occasion, Dharmvallbh Swami had explained the importance of *Tulsi Vivah*. The President the temple devotes Shri

Prakashbhai and other devotees were in the forefront in rendering their services. On this occasion devotee Shri Rakeshbhai and Manjulaben Kalyan (Columbus) had rendered their services as the host of the bridegroom and devotee Shri Mukeshbhai and Jaimin Patel (Columbus) had rendered their services as the host of the bride. The devotees Shri Baldevbhai and Shantaben (Vaduwala) had rendered their services as the host of the ritual of *Mamera*. Services of the ladies devotees in the kitchen were inspirational. Here each and every festival is celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. With the co-operation and services of Dr. Jigneshbhai Shah and Dr.Valjibhai Munjpara of I.S.S.O. (SEWA) about 70 local people had availed the benefit of Free Flu Vaccination was.

(Prakash Patel, Cleveland)

Washington, D.C., I.S.S.O. Chapter

With the pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a Three-Day Katha was organized in the Auditorium Hall of the temple of Mahadev in Lenham Maryland on 9th, 10th and 11th October 2009. Shastri Swami Nirgundasji was the spokesperson of Shrimad Satsangijivan Katha which was being narrated from 9.00 to 12.00 hours in the morning and 4.00 to 7.00 hours in the evening. Muni Swami of Dholka was also present. A large number of Haribhaktas had availed the benefit of *Katha*. At the end of *Katha, Dhoon, Kirtan* and *Aarti* were also performed. On Saturday *Pragatyotsav* of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj was also celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. On Saturday 24th October, *Satsang Sabha* was organized in Ilkriz Merry Land in Paris Hall of Grace Eposkeal Church in the evening from 3.30 hours to 9.30 hours. A grand *Annakut* on the stage was offered to Thakorji. All *Haribhaktas* had performed *Dhoon, Bhajan* and *Kirtan* in group. Shastri Swami had come for *Satsang*. Shastri Swami Vishwaprakashdasji of South New Jersey and Harinandan Swami of Cleveland narrated Annakutotsav and Katha of Govardhan Leela through Cell Phone. Thereafter *Sabha* was concluded with *Kirtan, Bhakti, Dhoon* and *Aarti*. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj activity of Satsang is going on very nicely.

(Kanubhai Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sydney (Australia)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shastri Swami Purushotamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami) and Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji activity of Satsang is performed very beautifully in our Sydney temple. With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Shastri Ram Swami, Bhajanand Swami and the devotees Shri Kantibhai Patel and Jayantibhai Patel of our Auckland (New Zealand) had come for Satsang in Sydney temple from 04/09/2009 to 07/09/2009. On Saturday and Sunday, saints had narrated *Katha* wherein they had explained the importance of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj and Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj. A beautiful programme of *Kirtan* and

Bhakti was also performed.

On Sunday 20/09/2009 Cruise *Satsang* was organized in the pious presence of Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami) and young learned *Kathakar* Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji. About 125 *Haribhaktas* had availed the divine benefit of *Bhajan Kirtan* amidst the sea water in a cruise. Both the saints had performed *Leela Charitra* of the Lord and *Kiran, Bhakti* and all the devotees were very much pleased.

On 04/10/2009, a programme of *Raas-Garba* was organized on the occasion of *Sharadotsav*. It was arranged by the devotee Shri Prakashbhai Patel. All the devotees had availed the benefit of *Dudh-Pauva*.

On 18/10/2009, grand *Annakut* was offered to Thakorji in our temple. Satsangi ladies devotees had prepared various items at their home and these items were offered with ardent *Bhakti* to the Almighty Lord. All the *Haribhaktas* were very much pleased to perform *Darshan* of such a grand *Annakut*. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, activity of *Satsang* is going on very nicely. *(Tejas Patel)*

AKSHARVAAS

Balva : Devotee Shri Somabhai Jesangbhai Chaudhary (the father of the devotee Shri Prahladbhai Chaudhary) passed away to Akshardham (17/10/2009) while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

Balasinor : Devotee Shri Patel Shardaben Manilal (90 years) passed away to Akshardham (24/10/2009) amidst the chanting of Shreeji Maharaj.

Unava: Devotee Shri Shantaba passed away to Akshardham (08/09/2009) while chanting Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra.

Ahmedabad : Devotee Shri Mulchandbhai Dahyabhai Soni (Patadiya) passed away to Akshardham (92 years) (03/11/2009) while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

Aantroli: Devotee Shri Ghanshyambhai Chhotabhai Patel (elder brother of devotee Shri Dharmeshbhai Patel) passed away to Akshardham (06/11/2009) while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

New Vadaj: Devotee Shri Santokba Chhaganbhai Patel (99 years) (wife of Kothari) passed away to Akshardham (29/08/2009) while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

New Vadaj: Devotee Shri Kanjibhai Poria (Dhulkotwala) (father of the trustee of the temple devotee Shri Valjibhai Poria) passed away to Akshardham (21/10/2009) amidst the chant of Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra.

Ahmedabad: Devotee Shri Nagarbhai Khimjibhai Patel (Medawala) passed away to Akshardham (05/11/2009) while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

Katosan (Krishnanagar): Devotee Shri Ishaben Govinddas Patel (105 years) passed away to Akshardham (07/11/2009) while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

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Shri Acharya Maharaj blessing the saints & devotees in Balvantrai Shree Swaminarayan temple. Kankaria on the occasion of *Parayan*.



The host Soni family performing poojan archan of H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj on the occasion of Parayan of Himatnagar temple.



H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj, Mahant Swami and Shastri Narayanvallabhdasji granting Darshan to the devotees in *Shobha-Yatra*.



H.H Shri Lalji Maharaj blessing the bright students in Vadu temple.



H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *Khat-Muhurt* of Juna Rabadiya (Panchmahals) temple.



H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj & Mahant Swami and the saints granting *Darshan* in *Shobhayatra* on the occasion of invocation of idol images in Kharol (Panchmahals).



The owner of Nirma company, Shri Karsanbhai and H.H Shri Mota Maharaj observing the construction work of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.



The famous comedian of Gujarat Shri Tiku Talsani in a meeting with H.H Shri Mota Maharaj after observing the work of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

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H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj blessing the Sabha in Bangkok.



H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj granting Darshan with the devotees in Bangkok.





Annakut Darshan and Tulsi Vivah in our temple, Toronto (Canada).



Tulsi Vivah in our temple, Leicestar (U.K.).



Tulsi Vivah in our temple, Chicago.

Prafull Kharsani