શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

january' 2009

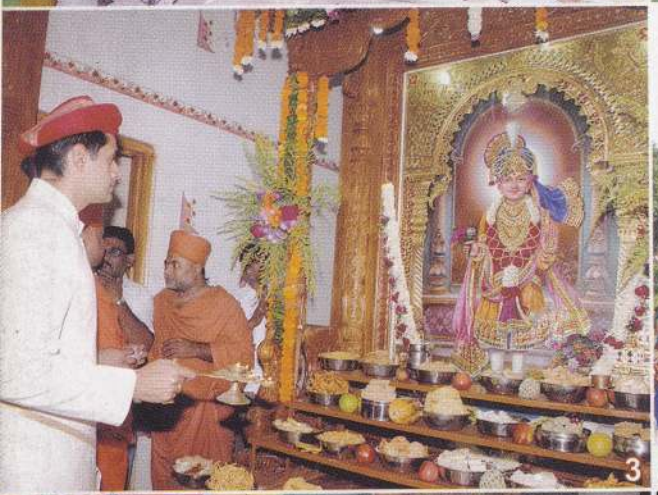


પ.પૂ.ધ.ધુ આચાર્ય શ્રી કેશવપ્રસાદજી મહારાજે નિર્માણ કરાવેલ અમદાવાદ મંદિરનો કાષ્ટકલાનો ભવ્ય સભામંડપ

પ્રકાશક : શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ મંદિર, અમદાવાદ-૧. • Publisher : Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad-1.













(1) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing aarti of marble umbrella and foot-prints made at the place of Prasadi of Shree hari at village Kanotar (on the bank of Nal Sarovar). (2) Haribhaktas waiting for Darshan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in the Sabha organized at Kanotar village. (3) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing Annakut aarti on the occasion of invocation ceremony of the idol images in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kapadwanj. (4) Devotees thronged together to have Darshan of the birth place at Chhapaiya. (5) Student-saints performing Kirtan Bhakti on the occasion of Saraswati Poojan in Shri Swaminarayan Sanksrit Mahavidyala, Jetalpur. (6) Shreeji Maharaj had organized a Choryasi of the city on the bank of Kankaria on the occasion of invocation ceremony of the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. On the same place at Kankaria lake, student-saints of our Shri Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidyala, Jetalpur vadi, performing Mangala-Charan on the occasion of inauguration of Kankaria Carnival 2008.



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

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

www.swaminarayanmuseum.com

With the directions of
Shri Narnarayandev
Pithadhipati
H.H. 1008 Shri
Koshalendraprasadji
Maharajshri

Controlling Editors & Publishers
Swami Narayanswaroopdasji
Mahant
Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.
Phone : 22132170, 22136818
Karbhari office : 22121515.
Fax : 22176992.

www.swaminarayan.info
Editorial & Subscription Address
Shri Swaminarayan
Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1 (India)

For a Change in Address :
E-mail : manishnvora@yahoo.co.in

Life time Subscription :
One Year : Rs. 50/-
Inland life time : Rs. 501/-
Overseas life time : Rs. 10,000/-
India : @ Rs. 5/-

श्री स्वामिनारायण

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 2 No : 21 January - 2009

CONTENTS

1. Editorial 02
2. Appointment Diary Of H.h. Acharya Maharajshri 03
3. Places of Prasadi of Shriji Maharaj (Ahmedabad Temple) 05
4. Shikshapatri 06
5. Who am I ? 08
6. Our Satsang 10
7. Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj 11
8. Pilgrimage of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in Dubai (Gulf) 12
9. Satsang Balvatika 13
10. Bhakti-sudha 15
11. Renunciation is everything 17
12. News 18

: Editor, Printer and Publisher :
Mahant Swami Narayanswaroopdasji for
Shree Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur, Ahmedabad.
Printed at Shree Swaminarayan Printing press,
Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Pin-380 001 and
Published at and for Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Pin-380 001.

Editorial



During the whole Dhanur Maas there is Dhoon of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and large number of devotees in each and every temple. Even the common people and Suryavanshi Bhaktas (those who wake up late) also like to come and attend the Dhoon. In the early morning, the body, mind, intellect, ego all are in Sushupti condition and therefore there are no much difficulties and obstacles in worshipping the Almighty Lord. But after the Sun-rise all our inner enemies get ready to attack us potently. Therefore, if Dhoon is kept after the sun-rise, there would not be success even up to 25 % or 5%. Therefore it is advisable that the Almighty God is worshipped before our inner enemies attack us and it grants us greater happiness. If Japa of Mahamantra is performed while remembering the idol image of Maharaj then there is considerable increase in our self confidence. Since our resistance power against our inner enemies is increased, our love towards the Almighty Lord gets increased and one gets a noble idea of search of the self. During the natural course of our life, we get the ideas of pooja, Darshan and routine service and other common means of worship and Bhakti. But there should be an increasing momentum in this worship and attraction towards the Almighty Lord. This momentum should be such that no one can prevent it. But this momentum is not achieved through routine type of Satsang. A routine Satsang may keep our body busy but it does not increase the momentum of our spiritual progress. If one witnesses his attraction towards the Almighty God increasing day by day then one should understand that he is performing Satsang to please the Almighty Lord through his words, mind and action. Therefore after completing Dhoon of this pious Dhanur Maas, one should think whether one gets the taste of prasadi or that of Bhajan. So one should make a inner search of the self during this Pious Dhanur Maas whether there is any improvement in momentum of one's own spiritual progress.

-Editor
(Shri Mahant Swami)
Sadhu Narayan Swaroopdas



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

(November-2008)

1. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Dr.Kanubhai S. Patel, Nikolgam road.
3. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Samirbhai Parikh, Vatva.
4. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Sureshbhai G. Chaudhary, Himatpura, Ajarapura village on the occasion of Satsang Sabha,
5. Graced Visnagar village on the occasion of Parayan.
6. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kantibhai Joitaram Patel on the occasion of Parayan organized on the occasion of his Jivatcharya. From there graced Shree Nath Dwara.
7. Graced the Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nathdwara.
8. Graced the concluding function of Parayan at village Lavarpur.
9. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple at village Shiyal and graced the village Kanotar village on the occasion of Tulsi Vivah. Also graced the houses of the devotees.
   Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranpura, on the occasion of Tulsai Vivah.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadtal, on the occasion of Patotsav Abhishek of Shri Laxminarayandev.
    Graced and performed the concluding ceremony of the Patotsav at Jetalpur.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadu on the occasion of concluding ceremony of Patotsav.
12. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Siddhpur, on the occasion of its 1- Patotsav.
13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli, for Darshan.
14. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar, on the occasion of Patotsav.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Rameshbhai Ambalal (Laxmi Dugdhalayawala), Viratnagar.

15 to 19. Graced Pokhra (Nepal) on the occasion of Parayan and graced Pulhashram for Darshan.

20. Graced the village Methan (Muli) on the occasion of concluding ceremony of Parayan.
21. Graced Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Chandlodiya, on the occasion of invocation ceremony of the idol images.
    Graced marriage ceremony at village Balwa.
22. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kapadwanj, on the occasion of invocation ceremony of the idol images.
    Graced the house of the devote Shri Kantibhai, Jodhpur, on the occasion of Homatmak Mahapooja.
23. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Anantbhai, Naranpura.
    Graced the Satsang Sabha organized in the village Sanand.
24. Graced the houses of the devotees Shri Oghadbhai Chavda, Shri Haribhai Motibhai Parmar, Shri Ranchhodbhai Karsanbhai Parmar (Balol-Bhal wala) and also graced the houses of the devotees Shri Bhagwanbhai Jadavbhai, Shri Lalitbhai Bachubhai patel and Shri Bhikjibhai Vataliya, Nava Naroda and Nikol.
25. Graced the Satsang Sabha organized in the villageBalol (Bhal) Mulidesh.
26. Graced Shree SWaminarayan temple, Khoda, Satsang Sabha organized in the village

Chandrasan and the houses of the devotees at village Sanand.

27. Graced the houses of the devotees Shri Sumerbhai Arjanbhai Desai and Shri Ghanshyambhai Arjanbhai Desai, Bapunagar.

30. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Maganbhai P. Laheri, Bapunagar, on the occasion of Mahapooja.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Pradipbhai Ratilal Thakkar, Ranip.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Gauranbhai Babubhai Kothari, Bapunagar, on the occasion of Mahapooja.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Prakashbhai Babubhai Patel, Thakkarnagar road.

(December-2008)

1. Graced the village Timba (Muli Desh) on the occasion of Satsang sabha.
2. Graced the village Vavol on the occasion of concluding ceremony of Parayan.
3. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sector-2, Gandhinagar, on the occasion of Patotsav.
4. Graced Shree Kastabhanjandev temple, Sarangpur on the occasion of laying a stone of the new temple.
5. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Makansar (Muli Desh), on inauguration function.
6. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Balchandbhai RAvjibhai Donga, Harshad Colony, Bapunagar.
7. Graced newly constructed Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mahesana, on the occasion of invocation ceremony of the idol images and installation of the Victory-Post.
8. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dangarava on the occasion of Patotsav.
9. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple (New) (ladies) , Vankaner (Muli Desh) on the occasion of Khat-Muhurt.
10. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Premjibhai Thakrasibhai Patel, Dharampur, on the occasion of Dhoon.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Natvarsinh Varvaji Chavda, Chandkheda.

Graced the house of the devotee Shree Kantibhai Joitaram Patel, Sola Gam

11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bayad on the occasion of Patotsav.
12. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Bachubhai D. Amin, Vejalpur, on the occasion of Mahapooja.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kantibhai Patel, Satellite.

13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vasai (Dabhla), on the occasion of Shakotsav.

14-15. Graced the inauguration of ladies Hostel, Bhuj (Kachchh).

16. Graced Ratanpol to perform aarti of Shri Hanumanji Maharaj.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Prahladbhai Harjivanbhai Soni, Pankornaka.

Graced the house of the devotee Shri Himatbhai Chauhan, New Vadaj.

17. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bopal, on the occasion of Dhoon of Dhanurmaas.
18. Graced the village Dangarava to grant Guru-Mantra and Kanthi to new devotees.

20-21. Graced Bhuj (Kachchh).

22. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria, on the occasion of Parayan.

OVERSEAS PILGRIMAGE

24 to 1- January 2009 Pilgrimage to Tanzania and Nairobi on the occasion of Patotsav of our temple Dare Salem (Tanzania) and for Darshan of our temples in Nairobi, to grace the houses of the devotees and to spread the message of Satsang.

Places of Prasadi of Shriji Maharaj (Ahmedabad Temple)

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)



Well in the place of Brahmchari : whenever Shreeji Maharaj used to stay in Rangmahol, He used to take bath while sitting beside this well and used to drink the water of this well. In memory of this, marble umbrella is carved at the place.

Places of Ahmedabad referred to in Vachanamrit :

(1) About Vedi situated in front of Shree Narnarayandev temple, Ahmedabad-2,4 and 6 (2) Shree Narnarayandev temple (sitting in His Medi), Ahmedabad-5

(3) Mukhar-vind situated to westward in front of the temple, Ahmedabad-1, 3

(4) Above Medi at the Gate and under the lemon-plant beside the gate, Ahmedabad-7

(5) Offering meals to the saints in Dharmshal situated to the North of the temple, Ahmedabad-8

Specialities of Shree Narnarayandev temple :

(1) The first ever temple of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan was got constructed by Shree Hari and He himself had installed the idol images of Shree Narnarayandev by taking them in arms. Under the auspices of this Shree Narnarayandev temple, other innumerable temples are being constructed.

(2) Shree Narnarayandev has been performing Tapa constantly for welfare and emancipation of the devotees. By installing the idol images in the temple, Ahmedabad has been made the Gadi Pith of our Sampradaya and therefore this Gadi is devoted for welfare of all the devotees.

(3) The difference between other temples of the Lord Shree Naranarayandev established in the country and this temple is that about the temple of Ahmedabad Shree Hari himself has stated that, His own self is there in this temple and there is no difference between them.

(4) On pious day of Phalgun Sud-3 Samvat 1878, Shreeji Maharaj himself installed the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev by taking the idol image in His arms. When the Lord prayed to the idol images to ensure emancipation of all the devotees who perform Darshan of the idol images, the Lord Shree Narnarayandev has blessed Shree Hari and therefore has agreed for it.

(5) Though there is no difference among the idol images which are installed by Shree Hari; yet at many places in Vachanamrit Shree Hari has mentioned the significance and priority of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. This is suggestive of the fact that Shree Hari had more liking and inclination towards the idol image of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Moreover in Vachanamrit-48, Gadhada Middle Chapter, it is directed to all the devotees to keep the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in their pooja.

(6) This is the only temple in the world for which the erstwhile British Government had allotted the land as gift for construction of the temple.

(7) Under the guidance of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, now a days this temple has been making progress in every field of life. A number of religious, social and educational programmes are being conducted under the auspices of this temple. Besides this Aushadhalaya, Gau-shala, Anna-Kshetra, publication of literature etc. activities are being undertaken by the temple on regular basis. As per the requirements of the society especially during the time of the natural calamities like earthquake, flood, drought services are rendered to the affected people of the society. Various camps like Freedom from Addiction, Blood Donation etc. are also organized. Besides this Bal Mandal, Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal and Mahila Mandal are being run under whom noble qualities are

Con. from page 7.....

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani



Text 20

One shall never make false accusations or abuse anyone verbally even if it serves one's self-interest.

Lord Swaminarayan now describes the various sins committed by man verbally, through impure and uncontrolled speech. Note that sin is accumulated through physical (bodily) action, through speech and through impure thought. Lord Shree Hari, in this Shikshapatri has made a point to address all such methods of committing sin.

Mithyapavadaha-false accusation; thus one should never falsely accuse somebody of some thing, especially in order to acquire money. it is said that to falsely accuse results in sin that is greater than even the five deadly sins. So much so, that Prayaschit for the five great sins is given in Shastras, but no such information is given for false accusations.

Yagnavalkya writes, 'If a great sin is committed and somebody is falsely accused f such crime, then the accuser receives double the sin of actually committing the crime. He also receives the sin of lying and for falsely accusing. Additionally the accuser inherits other sins committed by the accuser. Hence it is quite striking that such an act can have such mammoth consequence and so one must never falsely accuse anyone, adopting the philosophy of *'innocent until proven guilty'*.

The **Mahabharat** explains, 'Those who speak harshly, who slander others, who are cruel and who speak without thinking are reborn upon this Earth as a deer or a bird.'

There is a great Gujarati saying, '*Vani ane pani gari neja vaparvu*' – Water and speech should be sieved first and then used, it should always be cleansed. Speaking without thinking causes great sin. The consequence of such action could be devastating to a person. Indeed, our Shastras forbid broadcasting an embarrassing truth. Thus, it is unacceptable to glorify the fact that a person has committed sin, even if the sin has been committed by the person. Instead, you should have a one-to-one discussion with the person in order to put him back on the right track and resolve the situation by suggesting a course of action to dissolve the sin. One should never use the situation as a means of generating money through bribery.

Now let us consider the second part of this Shloka – never to hurt, abuse or swear at anyone. There is a saying, 'The lash of a sword can be cured often, but the lash of abuse can never be cured.' Thus, what we say to another person can often leave deep scars and so must always be controlled.

Through inappropriate speech, swearing etc. it is said that one's Punya is washed away. Therefore, never even in a state of anger, should you hurl abuse at anyone. One must always maintain absolute control over their speech. Swearing and abusive language is undesirable in a person – indeed it defames a person.

Many have a habit of searing. Even though this habitual swearing may not be in order to verbally abuse anyone, it is none the less wholly undesirable and such tendencies should be reversed. It seems that this habitual swearing is developed to such a stage where every sentence spoken contains a swear word!

We all know of Shishupal's consequence of hurling abuse and insults at Shree Krishana – THE DEATH PENALTY! Therefore one must realize that to speak in such inappropriate manner directly, indirectly, intentionally, or unintentionally is a great sin with grave consequences.

The voice is a powerful tool and must be used with care and consideration. Effective communication in society, groups and committees should always be practiced, because only then can there be stability and unification. To speak blatantly without regard or to lie can lead to a break down in a community. People must be willing t listen to each other and we must all learn to use the power of speech effectively for the betterment of society.

Arguments often start because communication has broken down or because somebody had said something which is offensive to another, and for that reason it is very necessary that we master the art of speaking.

Con. on page 5

nurtured in the society.

(8) A tradition of celebration of the various festivals of the Sampradaya is also going on incessantly. Auchaviya Mandal of the temple is the first Auchaviya Mandal of the Sampradaya.

(9) Gates of the temple are open for Darshan without any discrimination of caste or creed. There are facilities of residence for the visiting devotees and Haribhaktas. The kitchen of the temple is also open for all without any kind of discrimination.

(10) As per the scriptures, by performing Darshan of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of the temple, one gets the fruit equivalent that of Darshan of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of Badrika-ashram situated in the Himalayas. Pilgrimage performed to this temple is considered equivalent to the pilgrimage performed of the pious Himalayas. On the days like Agiyaras, Poonam and religious festivals like Samaiyaa one finds a number of devotees thronging together in the temple.

(11) Weekly Heritage Walk being conducted by the local authority Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation begins from this temple.

There are words of Shree Hari prior to returning to Akshardam : "I am present in the idol images of Shree Narnarayan, Shree Laxminarayan, Shree Gopinath etc. established by me. Due to curse of the Rishi Durvasa I took incarnation on this earth in the form of Narnarayandev. Narrate and express your happiness and unhappiness to the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, I shall help you while remaining with the idol image and therefore there is no reason for you to be dejected for any reason whatsoever."

Let us relish one incident of the presence of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev at the end of this article. Once the Lord Shree Swaminarayan was sitting in the temple. At that time two devotees of Bhat caste residing in Shahpur area of Ahmedabad came to the temple Darshan. They stood in front of the idol images with folded hands and closed eyes; and a thought came into their minds as to which of these two idol images was that of the Lord Narayan? At the very moment the Lord Shree Narayan indicated His own self with His own finger and stated that "We are Naranayn and this idol image beside us is that of Nar." In this way the Lord Narayan introduced himself.

By reading about the temple of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, Ahmedabad which is a Place of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj, if a desire to perform Darshan arises in the mind of any reader then he may visit Ahmedabad reach in Nava Vas of Kalupur area or at the stand of Haja Patel Pol on Relief Road in the middle of the city and asked anybody, "Where is Swaminarayan temple?" the answer would be "Here it is."

Who am I ?

- Kothari Swami Ramanujdasji



In 20th Vachnamrit of Gadhda 1st Chapter the Lord Shree Swaminarayan has stated that the soul residing in the human body looks at the outer form of the body its childhood youth and old age but a person does not look at himself he only looks at outer world and enjoys the transitory pleasure and happiness which he experiences through his six senses of hearing touch, vision, taste, smell etc. In fact, he does not enjoy the real happiness which is lying within himself and he does not know anything. Therefore, he is very ignorant.

Thereafter, Suk Muni has asked whether it is in our own hands to look at our real form and if it is so then vide us a soul remain ignorant (without Knowledge). At that time, Shree Maharaj answered that those who have had Satsang can have Darshan of his own soul.

A question may arise in our mind don't I know myself? How does it seem? Moreover, how does it happened that I may forget myself in my own deem. This cannot be beloved that I may not know or I cannot know myself. We may feel that all know one another in this world and it may be surprising to find that would there be anybody who may not know himself.

In fact, there are innumerable souls on this earth who do not know or who do not recognized themselves the ultimate Truth is that even we do not know ourselves to recognized our own self is the only key to recognize Parmatma. Those who know themselves very well are very rare in this world and they are worthy to be bowed down. महात्मा सुदुर्लभः To know thyself is to know God. We have very rare opportunity to have Darshan of such Mahatma.

It may appear to us that we know ourselves very well and yet why don't we know the almighty Parmatma. But in fact, due to Ignorance, this soul does not recognize his own self and if it does recognize than we have to show **"Who am I"**? We recognize only our physical body and recognition given to us by the people of this world and that is "I" for ourselves. If someone points out at our different parts of the body then we would introduce them as "my hand, my leg, my eye, my mouth, my throat, etc." But in fact who is this "I" who says that "this is my, that is my".

The scriptures and the saints state that though one may realize the physical existence of all the organs of the human body but it does not recognize and identify in clear terms who is this "I" who shows the ownership of all these human limbs, which make this human body. It is true that all these organs make this human body but then they do not make "you". So one must think who is this "I".

After a long deliberation one would realize that one does not know himself and it is in fact very much difficult to recognize one's own self. The life of the whole universe and a key to recognize the almighty Lord is to recognize his own self and there is no work more difficult then this. After a very staunch Tap Sadhana, one gets

all his sins burnt and after getting completely purified – these four questions arise in a purified soul : 1. Who am I ? 2. From where have I come ? 3. Where will I go ? 4. What is the reason for my arrival to this place?

To recognize and identify his own self is known has knowledge of the same and that knowledge of the self can be achieved only with the blessings of the almighty Lord. And these blessings can be achieved only through Bhakti and Samagam of Sadguru and his Sevan.

The desire to know ones own self that is to have Aatma Gyan or Param Tatva Gyan is nothing but the result of the good deeds of our past innumerable births. After taking thousands of births a person gets the desire to know the self and there after no much delay is caused in fulfillment of his curiosity. It is this curiosity due to which the inner self gets purified if one lives a life as prescribed by the scriptures. The moment the heart or the self is purify, a divine light is lit and there is light everywhere inside.

To get the vision of knowledge one should have Samagam and Seva of the scriptures and the saints. The ultimate God of knowledge is to have almighty God. And to achieve the knowledge of the same is real knowledge and firm and deeply rooted faith in the almighty Lord is the real key to get emancipation. Without knowing and recognizing the self and Parmartma one does not get Parmanand that is divine pleasure.

So after obtaining Aatma Gyan and by keeping faith in the worlds of the saints and the scriptures one should worship the almighty Lord i.e. the duty of human life. There is no way out but to realize these and therefore, it is advisable to make this human life meaningful. This human body which is made of five elements is like a temple of the deity. It is the place of resident of the almighty Lord. And it is this human body which is a means to get emancipation. The Lord Shreeji Maharaj granted us convenience and time but due to ignorance a man cannot prepared his ultimate path of life.

The Lord Shree Swaminarayan has talked about recognizing one own self at very places in Vachnamrit.

Vachnamrit - 2 Gadhda Middle Chapter : Due to ignorance the soul believes the self made of the senses as his own form. But it is in fact different from these things. The real self has no relation whatsoever with these senses.

Vachnamrit - 30 Gadhda Middle Chapter : When one recognizes the ultimate truth of Chaitanya Braham which is above Prakruti Purush and one who believes this Braham as his own form, he in fact worships the Lord Shree Krishna.

Vachnamrit - 32 Gadhda Middle Chapter : The worldly relations which are due to this physical body and this outer world may appear and disappear. But those who recognize his own soul and who worship the image of the Lord ardently and leaving aside his caste, creed and religious, he in fact becomes ready to worship the almighty Lord.

Vachnamrit - 45 Gadhda Middle Chapter : There are three qualities, ten senses, ten Pran, four Antah-karan, five elements, five subjects and fourteen Indra. When one does not allow his self to be affected all these and who worships his owns soul as the only authority and in that way worships the almighty god then he is worthy of real worship.

Vachnamrit - 4 Sarangpur Chapter : Therefore, those who clearly believe that I that is my soul is not these qualifies of this body and which is different and beyond this Maya of this body. And those who worship Chaitanya Roop of the almighty Lord by becoming Nirvasanik then his faith must be considered as a firm faith.

Therefore, if we keep firm faith in the words of the scriptures and the saints and follow on the path shown by Shreeji Maharaj then it would become easier for us to recognize our own self. And then only we would believable to achieve the ultimate goal of our life that is to achieve Aksahrdham and by leaving aside affection of this perishable body and by obtaining knowledge we would obtain pleasure of Parmatma.

Our Satsang

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas Jamiyatpura - (Mahant Swami, Mansa)

Our Satsang is not a ditch of any communal religious organization or institution. All streets lead to roads, all roads merge into main roads, all main-roads into sub-ways, all sub-ways into high ways and all such high ways merge and meet a national high way blooming into international routes. Many ponds and lakes appear trivial before the magnitude of an ocean. The speed and movement of the free birds, aero-planes, helicopters, jet planes and space shuttles cannot be prevented by any horizons. Similarly grandeur and magnanimity of our Satsang is also beyond any mental horizon, whatsoever. Since inception of the Vedas, the Search of the Self has been identified and recognized as Satsang from time immemorial. In the vast sweep of time of this Satsang, innumerable tides and waves of the ocean effected by the Moon, solar and lunar eclipses and many more storms and turbulences have found themselves wiped out and yet there has not been even a single jerk in the inherent structure of this Satsang. This Satsang keeps on expanding its divine horizons.

Who are we before this ageless Satsang which is Sat, Chit and Anand? Let us have a bird's eye view of it.

Char Aani Satsang : Under the influence of our relative uncles and aunties, we may have adopt Kanthi, Seva Pooja, Tilak etc. in Satsang, we may be a regular commuter of temples for Darshan of deities, we may have been extending our co-operation by offering Dharmada and other activities of the Satsang—till then this is Char Aani Satsang. That means we have got our senses coloured with Satsang. But not remaining satisfied with this, we should move ahead to achieve the next stage.

Aath Aani Satsang: If we dive deeper in the above layer of Satsang then we find ourselves trying to understand the history of Satsang intellectually; we may be visiting of and on the places of pilgrimage of Prasadi, we may have complete knowledge of special incidents occurred in the life of the Almighty Shreeji Maharaj; we may acquaint ourselves with the scriptures of our Sampradaya, we may study them ardently and religiously. We may concentrate our mind and intellect upon the study and understanding of 'Shiksha-Patri', 'Vachanamrit', 'Satsangijivan', 'Satsangibhushan', 'Bhakt-Chintamani'. Moreover we may at our constant efforts to modify our conduct, behaviour and thinking as prescribed in these scriptures and if we perform Mansi-pooja, Pratah-pooja, Sandhya, Aarti with full concentration then we may be called Satsangi of middle order.

Baar Aani Satsang : Study of the Scriptures, Samagam of the saints and to entail the Vairagya-Sankhya Bhav in the form of Almighty God then firm Yog-Sadhana is achieved very easily and naturally. On obtaining clarification about five subjects and their sensual enjoyment and its consequences, we may concentrate better in our upasana of the Almighty God. We may also achieve Buddhi-Yog to understand physical and non-physical form of swaroop of Shree Hari. After achieving this much understanding and knowledge we enable ourselves to attain and achieve company of the Supreme Soul in the form of the Soul. Getting rid of good and bad omens when one constantly cherishes his days and nights in thinking of the Almighty God then his Satsang is said to be of Baar Aani. However, he has yet relations of Maya though in dormant form through his state and Bhav of qualities. Even at this stage, there is a hindrance of Maya to Satsangi Mahapurush and therefore he must always be very much vigilant and he should concentrate on purification of his self and constant remembrance of the form of the Almighty God and this is very much essential for him.

Sol Aani Satsang : to withdraw all the ten senses and eleventh mind from various subjects wherein they are involved and to sacrifice them in Brahma-Agni- this is known as Yog-Yagna. While doing so, when one gets Sakshatkar of Para Brahma Purushottam Narayan, then it must be known as result of that Yog-Yagna (Gadhada Middle Chapter Vachanamrit-8). Body, senses, three qualities, three conditions must be got rid of then idol image of the Almighty God should be constantly remembered then one gets Darshan of his Soul very easily and naturally. His faith of being servant to Purna Purushottam by performing upasana gets deeply engraved in his consciousness his behaviour is found that of a servant of even the smallest saint and Haribhakta. All the Mahamuktas which are like Sol Aani gold are still moving around us in our Satsang even though they have their place in Akshardham and at the feet of the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan (Gadhada First Chapter, Vachanamrit-21). On achieving such a state of mind we become of our Satsang and Satsang becomes ours.

In fact our Satsang is replete with the gems and diamonds like such Muktas. The Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan is at the top of this Satsang. Shree Hari has established great Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and there was company of the great saints like Gopalanandji (an idol of great divine light), Muktanand Swami (an idol of coldness who can extinguish any fire, whatsoever, with sweetness and coldness of his tongue), Nishkulanand Swami, Sahajanand Swami, Premanand Swami among many others. The instant poets and friends of Shree Hari, these great saints have always enlightened this Satsang with their Divine Light. And therefore it is our ardent and religious duty to surrender to this Satsang in whatever way we can.

Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj

- Rajan Kanaiyalal Bhavsar (Visnagar)



The father and mother of this world took incarnation on this earth as Shri Dharmdev Shri Hariprasad and Shari Bhaktidevi Shri Baladevi (Premvati). Their first child was the Lord Shri Sankarshan Shri Balramji with the name Shri Rampratapji and their second child was the Almighty Lord Purushottam Shri Harikrishna (Shri Swaminarayan) and their third child was the Lord Shri Pradyuman with the name Shri Ichharam.

Shri Rampratapji Maharaj had three children namely (1) Shri Nadramji (2) Shri Ayodhyaprasadji and (3) Shri Thakorramji. Among them Shri Ayodhyaprasadji was born on Jeth Sud-11 Vikram Samvat 1865 on the pious day of 'Nirjala Ekadahi' which is also popularly known as "Bhim Ekadashi'. Right from his childhood Shri Ayodhyaprasadji was very religious by nature. And therefore the Lord Shree Swaminarayan had granted him Darshan of his Divine Idol Image in his dream during his childhood.

With the desire of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, all Paramhamsa and all the devotees Sadguru Paramchaitanyanand Swami and Sadguru Nirgunanand Swami went to Uttar Pradesh to take Dharmkul. When they all, along with the Dharmakul, were coming to Gujarat, on their way Shri Ayodhyaprasadji developed fever and sickness due to his tender age. Therefore the Lord Shri Swaminarayan came on to His Roza horse and offered water to him. Such Darshan was visualized by Swami Nirgunanandji and ultimately Shri Ayodhyaprasadji got cured. Thereafter Dharmakul graced the village Kariyani. There Shri Ayodhyaprasadji could see the Lord Shree Swaminarayan as a human being. He could compare his earlier image which he had had in his dream with that of his uncle the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Both were one and the same and on the very moment he got engrossed in his deep faith in the Almighty Lord. Since then and throughout the rest of his life, he had had a constant image of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan before his eyes during the day as well as during the night and in all the three state of mind.

On Tuesday Kartik Sud-11 Vikram Samvat 1882, Date: 21/11/1825, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan established Shri Ayodhyaprasadji, the second son of his elder brother Shri Rampratapbhai, as Acharya of Narnarayandev Pith, Ahmedabad situated in North Bhag of Bharatkhand after adopting him as his son and established Shri Rahuvirji Maharaj, the fourth son of his younger brother Shri Ichharamji, as Acharya of Laxminarayandev Pith, Vadtal situated in South Bhag of Bharatkhand after adoping him as his son.

After establishing the seat of Acharya, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan received an invitation from Maharaja Sayajirao Gaiekwar of Vadodara to grace his palace and city along with the saints and the devotees. Accordingly, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan graced Vadodara along with the Acharyas, Dharmakul, saints and Hari Bhaktas on Kartak Vad – 3, Vikaram Samvant 1882 dated 28.11.1825. Maharaja Sayajiarao Gaiekwar organized a great procession of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan in the city of Vadodara of the great honour. The Lord Shree Swaminarayan was sitting on an elephant that was decorated with golden seat and artistic lace. On the second elephant Suk Muni and Muktanand Swami were sitting were as third elephant Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji and Acharya Shri Raghuvirji Maharaj took there seat. After these three elephant there was four coloured of Gaiekwar Government, Parshad of Shri Hari, Kathi Darbar, other Hari Bhaktas and Paramhansa. Thereafter, Shri Hari graced the place of the King and blessed him. Maharaj stayed for three days in Vadodara and granted the pleasure of his demand presents to the King.

Pilgrimage of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in Dubai (Gulf)



Many devotees of our original Sampradaya of Shree Narnarayandev Gadi have settled in United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) for the purposes of business and service. It was a long time that Dhramvanchi Acharya Maharaj had not graced the gulf countries and therefore the devotees were eager. But Shreeji Maharaj always listens to the prayer of His ardent devotees. Among such devotees, source of inspiration was the devotee Shri Bhimjibhai Tank. On the occasion of inauguration of his new factory and office he ardently requested H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj along with the saints. On 10/12/2008 H.H.Shri Mota Maharaj and the saints graced the land of Dubai. On the air-port, devout devotees welcomed them all.

In Sharjah, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the house of the devotee Shri Bhimjibhai Tank. Performed aarti of Thakorji in the temple. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj cut the cake prepared the devotees themselves. While cutting the cake Mota Maharaj asked as to whose birthday it was. Bhimjibhai informed that, the very arrival of Mota Maharaj was suggestive of birth of all the devotees. Really great is understanding of this devotee.

On 11/12/2008 H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the houses of the devotees. There were tears of happiness in the eyes of every devotee. In the hall of Sky Line College of Sharjah, a Sabha was conducted in the evening. First of all Aarti was performed to Thakorji and thereafter all the devotees performed poojan of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

Addressing the Sabha, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj asked all the devotees to join themselves in the noble task of construction of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. Thereafter Shri Miteshbhai Thakkar and Shri Ramnikbhai Mistry explained the importance of Dharmkul. Here H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj insisted all the devotees to ardently worship Shree Hari with firm faith. To keep the things in their house neat and clean and to offer only clean and healthy things in Prasadi. This would not only ensure good health but would also strengthen their worship.

Responding to the of and on request of the devotee Shri Miteshbhai to grace the land, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj informed him that H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Gadiwala would certainly visit the land. Listening to this, all the devotees were very much happy. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj also stated that, they all were members of the same family and they all would be together even in Akshardham.

While furnishing information about Shree Swaminarayan Museum, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj stated that, our Sampradaya is in need of such a museum. It is also essential that things of Prasadi are preserved through scientific methods for a longer period of time. And therefore a noble concept came to his mind to have such a Museum wherein he wished that all the devotees should contribute as per their capacity and desire.

The Sabha was conducted by the devotee Shri Kiritbhai Bhatt. A beautiful Raas-Garaba were also organized by the devotees. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj was very much pleased to observe this Raas-Garaba.

On 12/12/2008 a new factory and office of the devotee Shri Bhimjibhai Tank were inaugurated in Vedic tradition by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj also graced Mahapooja ritual and blessed the devotee Shri Bhimjibhai and his sons Shri Sanjaybhai and Shri Alpeshbhai. The Mahapooja ritual was got performed by Hari Swami and Vishwavihari Swami.

In the evening a Satsang Sabha was conducted in New Villa, Dubai. All Haribhaktas welcomed H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj with great pleasure and happiness. First of all H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed aarti of Shree Hari and all the devotees performed collective aarti of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Thereafter devotees Shri Kaushikbhai and Parasarbhai performed Kirtan-Bhakti and obtained pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Saints and the devotees described the importance of Dharmkul and requested all the devotees to render their services in construction of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. At lat the devotee Shri Sureshbhai stated that, we have to learn a lot from the life of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj as this Dharmkul is other form of Shree Hari.

At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole Sabha and expressed his desire. He informed all the devotees to worship the Almighty Lord so ardently that their names may be enlisted in the list of great and leading devotees of our Sampradaya and recommended to become the devotees like Hanumanji and Naradji whose names were there in the Diary of the Almighty Lord.

On 13/12/2008, a Sabha was conducted in Hari-temple in the house of the devotee Shri Shamjibhai Mepani wherein after inspirational speeches by the saints, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the whole Sabha.

During this pilgrimage Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat), Mahant Swami Anand Swami Devprakashdaji (Mathura), Bhakti Swami and Vishwavihari Swami (Muli), Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat and the devotees Shri Somabhaiand Shri Rasikbhai from America and the devotee Shree Yogeshbhai from Oman had accompanied H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Editor : Shastri Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar)



Retirement in Age, Activity in Words

-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

It was the time of midnight. There was pin drop silence everywhere. The village Tera was sleeping peacefully. The Parshads and saints who have come to the village with Shree Hari are also in their Yog-Nindra.

Suddenly Shree Hari directed one Parshad Dungarji to go with him. Dungarji was feeling sleepy and therefore he asked the place they wanted to go at this odd time of midnight. Shreeji Maharaj asked him to keep mum and to follow him. While walking Dungarji argued that it was still very dark. Maharaj thought to teach him a lesson.

What is the duty of a servant. To follow the directions. The moment there begins arguments, it is the breach of the duty of a servant.

Dungarji argued that the gate must have been closed, it must have been locked. During those time of the kings and kingdom, the gate of such villages and cities were used to be closed at night. And it was being protected by the guard. Maharaj woke up the guard and asked him to open the gate. The guard recognized Maharaj and therefore he started searching the key of the lock. Maharaj was in hurry. He touched the lock and the it was unlocked. He informed the guard that the lock must not have been working properly. But the guard knew the quality of the lock. It was a Khambhati lock very popular for its sturdiness and durability. He was taken aback.

Maharaj and Dungarji went out of the village Tera. While passing they were passing through a field. Dungarji again stated that it was very dark. Maharaj looked at Dungarji and agreed with him. Maharaj pointed out towards nicely cultivated field and its soft soil. Maharaj proposed to sleep in the field, as it would be more comfortable than any bed. Dungarji was relieved to find that at last Maharaj agreed to sleep. Both of them were sleeping in the filed. After some time, a voice started emerging from the nose of Dungarji as he was snoring. Maharaj left him there and went ahead.

A servant who forgets his duties, faces such consequences. Leaving behind Dungarji sleeping, Maharaj went ahead. Dungarji was interested in sleeping. The duties of a servant are very arduous in nature. It is not easy to understand those who are to be rendered services by a servant. Dungarji Bhaka is a Mukta Aatma. He teaches us through his own behaviour. He was with the Almighty God. It was a time of midnight and it is human tendency to feel sleepy. Don't we feel sleepy in Sabha attending after completing all our daily work? It is natural. Similarly even if the Lord Shree Swaminarayan is with us then also we feel like sleeping. Midnight is the proper time of sleeping. But the Almighty Lord reminds us that if we remain sleeping or in the state of sleeping even if the God awakens us then the Lord

leaves us behind. Those who remaining sleeping, the Lord goes away from him.

Dungarji was snoring even on the soil of the field and therefore Shreeji Maharaj left him and went ahead. When he got up, he did not find Shreeji Maharaj. He was confused and started running towards the village. He asked all the villagers whereabouts of Shreeji Maharaj. But no one had any information. Thereafter Dungarji narrated to the saints what had happened at night. Dungarji repented a lot that as a punishment Maharaj left him behind.

Duties of a servant depend upon his sacrifice and not upon his logic. Words of those who is to be served are everything for a servant. Dungarji Bhakta learnt a lesson of what it is to be a servant. Don't you think after listening to this Lila Maharaj that in every such incident there is a lesson to be learnt ?

•

To render services by self

- Sadhu Shrirang Maharaj (Gandhinagar)

"કોણ રે પુણ્ય વિકલવર પામી,
ભલે મળ્યા જે રામના સ્વામી,"

How lucky would be those persons, who had a chance to meet Shreeji Maharaj when the Lord took incarnation on this earth! The Lord Shree Swaminarayan took incarnation on this earth to fulfill the desires and wishes of His devotees. Witnessing innumerable incidents of Lila, the great saints kept them alive in the form of scriptures by describing them vividly. There is one such incident.

Once the devotee Jiva Khachar placed a proposal before Shreeji Maharaj that he wanted to offer the meals to all the saints and therefore he desired that all the saints should grace his house, should perform Katha- Kirtan and even Maharaj should also grace his house and that during the meals Maharaj himself should serve the meals to all the saints in a row. He requested Maharaj to accept his proposal.

Maharaj smiled at him accepted his proposal. And agreed to grace his house. Jiva Khachar requested to grace house the very moment. The next day was decided by Maharaj.

Jiva Khachar also invited all the ardent devotees at his home. Everyone knows how generous Jiva Khachar is. First of all a Sabha was conducted wherein Katha and Kirtan were performed in the Sabha. Thereafter the saints took their seats in a row. Maharaj started serving the sweets to the saints. All other items were also offered to the saints. Jiva Khachar was issuing orders while standing on one side. Maharaj asked him as to what noble fruit he would earn when others are rendering the services but he is not doing anything. Jiva Khachar argued that, all the expenses were being borne by him including that of the meals so naturally he would earn the noble fruits.

The answer of Maharaj to this argument of Jiva Khachar is really eye opening for all the devotees. It is a mystery of the scriptures unfolded by Maharaj. Maharaj said that Naradji was asked to render his services to a Sadhu. Naradji served him for four months. Now no one knows the devotee in whose house Sadhu stayed during these four months. But by rendering services, Naradji became famous. This is a very popular incident in Bhagwat Mahatmya. Naradji was a son of a maidservant. His mother was rendering the services in a house of a rich man. One day some saints graced the house of the rich man. Being a maidservant of the house, the mother of Naradji asked Naradji to serve the saints. Following the directions of his mother, Naradji served the saints. Saints became very happy. They gave Naradji one Guru-Mantra and due to power of that Guru-Mantra, Naradji attained the Almighty god. Now no-one knows and recognizes and even remembers this rich man wherein the saints had stayed.

Listening to this, Jiva Khachar took a dish of meals in his hand started serving the saints. It is truly said that, we should render our services ourselves.

BHAKTI-SUDHA



Importance of Shree Narnarayandev

- **Bhavnaben Kamleshkumar Khandhadia (Morbi)**

The greatest gift to the devotees by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan is our Lord Shree Narnarayandev. We are really very fortunate that, in this world we have got the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan and Satsang like Kalpa-Vruksha. The Lord Shree Swaminaryan himself got constructed a temple in Ahmedabad and installed the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev by taking the idol images in His arms. This universal and great event is golden in our Sampradaya.

Since the creation of this universe, worship of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev has started. Even in the scriptures like 'Shrimad Bhagwat', 'Vayu Purana', 'Mahabharat' and 'Vishnu Purana', the Lord Shree Narnarayandev has been described as the king of the Bharatkhand. We should respect the national flag and the laws of the country wherein we are residing. For example, if we are residing in America then we should respect the national flag and the laws of America. Similarly, from religious point of view, we are residing in the country of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev who is the king of this Bharakhand. And therefore the Lord Shree Narnarayandev is the god to be worshipped by all and only he is to be worshipped. Those who worship some one else they have deviated from their righteous path. History is witness to the fact that from thousands of years worship of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev is prevalent in this Bharatkhand.

While describing the importance of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, Sadguru Vasudevanand Varni writes in 'Satsangi Bhushan' that in the first and middle part of Shrimad Bhagwat, in Mahabharat and even in the Puranas Ved Vyas has narrated the importance of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and has been described as such God and deity worthy to be worshipped. The Lord Shree Narnarayandev is not different from the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and His significance is constantly described and sung in Akshardham. Those who have understood the significance of the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan, would automatically understand the significance of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev.

Though Nar and Narayan appear separate and different from each other from outside. But in spiritual terms they are not different from each other. They are one and the same. Shri Nishkuland explains this mystery in 'Bhakta Chintamani':

"છો તો એકને દિસો છો દોય
તેનો ભેદ જાણે જન કોય."

"Oh Lord, though You are One, you grant Darshan in two forms and no one can unfold this mystery." While performing Darshan of the Lord, in Sanskrit language the name is referred to as singular name 'Shree Narnarayan Namah:' and it is not referred to as plural name. In Darshan we see two different forms of Nar and Narayan; but the scriptures respect them as one and one only. Shree Purushottam narayan has come to this earth through Dhamdev in the form of Shree Narnarayandev and has been performing Tapa in Badrikashram. This fact is narrated by the Lord Shree Hari himself in 6th Vachanamrit of Ahmedabad :"We have recognized this Shree

Narnarayandev as our own form and accordingly we have installed the idol image in Ahmedabad with great love and affection. And therefore, one should never see any difference between us and this Shree Narnarayandev."

Shree Narnarayandev is the form of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan only. Even the Lord Shree Hari has explained the importance of Shree Narnarayandev by addressing as : "Our Lord Shree Narnarayandev".

Once an evil idea struck to the deity Indra and he sent Kamdev to break Tapa of Shree Narnarayandev. When even an anger which burns the soul does not dare to enter, how can Kamdev enter?

Significance and importance of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev is unique and wonderful. The Lord Shreeji Maharaj himself has stated in Vachanamrit that there is only one Rishi with firmness of mind and staunch Brahmcharya and he is Shree Narnarayan Rishi. This Rishi is our real shelter. This shelter would help us get rid of all our desires and wishes. In order to win over the Maya prevailing in woman form in this world, no one is capable without blessings of this Shree Narnarayan Rishi. At last in the words of Shreeji Maharaj, this Shree Narnarayandev is the cause of all incarnations.

•

Method of using the Beads

-Jayshri Sureshkumar Zinzuwadia (Dhrangadhra)

On the pious day of Kartik Sud-9, Shree Hari was sitting in a Sabha. At that time Vasudevanand Varni requested Shree Hari to explain the ritual of Mantra-Jaap to be performed everyday. Shree Hari said,

"Oh Varni! A person who has obtained Diksha from Acharya, who has purified himself by taking bath, who has concentrated mind free from any worry or preoccupation and above any anger, is eligible to perform Japa."

The bead of 108 Manka is the best. The bead of 54 Manka is mediocre and the bead with 27 Manka is the lowest. After sitting in Swastik posture, one should chant the Mantra through this beads keeping in Gaumukhi. While moving each Manka, one should chant one mantra. The bead should be held between the first finger and the thumb of the right hand. It cannot be held in the left hand. Until one cycle of 108 Manka is completed, this bead cannot be laid down on earth and if by chance it drops from the hand then one should perform one more cycle as its remedy. One should also not move his right hand while performing Mala.

One cannot chant Mantra with this bead, who has any kind of hat on his head, without tying the knot of hair, with left hand, with perturbed mind, without taking bath and while talking with others. One cannot chant Mantra with the beads without covering it with Gaumukhi or any other cloth, without Aasan on the earth, while sleeping, standing, sitting in a vehicle, sitting on a bed and while having shoes on the feet. One can also not chant Mantra with the beads, while smiling and talking with others, on the road, at places which are not considered to be pious, in darkness and while sitting in the company of evil persons.

Sleep is a great hindrance in chanting Mantra through beads. And therefore one should be careful and alert about his sleep. A prudent should never breach in the principles of Dharma as prescribed under the scriptures unless there is a critical time or any urgency. Control over mind, piety, pondering over the meaning of the Mantra, renunciation of dejection and worry etc. are the reasons of success in Japa.

While chanting Mantra through beads, one's face should be fixed at the idol image of the Almighty Lord. While chanting Mantra through beads, if one happens to touch a cat or a rat, one should stand up take Aachman, have Darshan of the Lord Sun and remembering Shree Hari, should resume his chanting of Mantra.

There are three divisions of japa viz. Vachik, Upansu, Mansik. Among them to chant Mantra while speaking loudly is the lowest, to chant Mantra in Kantha is of middle level and to chant Mantra in the mind is the best. Manas Japa is considered to be the best Japa. But for that, there should be concentration and constant alertness of the mind.

•

Renunciation is everything

- Compilation by Sadhu Dharmkishordas Guru Swami Narayanswaroopdasji

Many times it is heard in our Indian culture that one gets happiness by renunciation. Because renunciation also imparts something. Therefore it is popularly stated :

"જેટલુ છોડશો એટલું પામશો"

This is true because it is renunciation in which everything is hidden. The great emperors of the ancient times were not mad that they left everything in just one minute and went to the forests. They must have gained tremendous pleasure in such a renunciation. There are words of the Almighty God that if one renounces everything and joins himself with the Supreme god then his pleasure and achievement is beyond any expression.

One cannot simply jump into water while sitting in his car. One has to get out of his car, has to remove his clothes and all other things which he may have. Moreover, most of us just get drowned because which we carry all our belongings with ourselves and we do not renounce anything. Therefore only those who would renounce everything would get emancipation. Without this it is very difficult, rather impossible to get rid of this Maya.

If we peep into the lives of the great persons of our Indian culture then we would find what is real renunciation. The great king Bharat left everything and went into the forest. Because he realized that real pleasure consists in renunciation only and therefore he left everything. Even the nature teaches us this lesson of renunciation. Trees, cows, river, ocean etc. never eat their own fruits. The cow gives us milk. The river and the ocean collect everything and offer it to the human world because they all know that renunciation is everything.

Let us take one example. It will make us understand what is better renunciation or hoarding of everything that we have. One guru had two disciples. One believed in renunciation and the other believed in hoarding. One considered renunciation as supreme whereas the other held hoarding to be the supreme. One believed that the real emancipation consists in renunciation whereas the other looked at hoarding as the real emancipation. Arguing thus, both of them came to a bank of a river. Both of them wanted to go to the opposite bank of the river. One boatman was standing there. He agreed to help them reach the opposite bank of the river. But with a condition of payment of 50 paise per person. The disciple who believed in hoarding immediately took out 50 paise from his pocket; but the disciple who believed in renunciation, had nothing to offer. His friend paid the amount on his behalf. During the whole journey the disciple who paid the amount was very much happy. He argued if he had not paid the amount how they would have reached at the opposite side of the river. His friend kept mum. Both of them reached on the bank. While walking on the bank, the disciple who paid the fare of journey, tried to convince his friend that his hoarding helped them to reach there. But his friend refused to believe. He said that it was renunciation of one rupee that helped them reach on the other side of the bank. Because if he would have preserved one rupee in stead of spending then they would not have reached the other side of the river.

So dear devotees, it is renunciation wherein lies everything. More we talk about the significance of renunciation less we would find it expressed. Therefore we should always keep in our mind that significance of renunciation is immense. **'Enjoy while renouncing'** is the essence of our Indian culture.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh
Ahmedabad Region

The Dhanurmas Dhoon in pious company of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in Ahmedabad Temple.

The Month of Dhanur-maas is a pious month which comes only once in a year. It is a month wherein all the devotees performed special Bhajan and Bhakti because during this month there are not social occasions like marriages. Thus, it becomes easier for all worship the almighty lord. During this past month Maha Mantra Dhoon of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan in early in the morning in all our temples similarly, in our Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad Mangala Aarti is performed at 5:30 in the morning by Dharma-Vanshi, Dharmakul, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in the pious company of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Thereafter, Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon is performed in Sabha Mandap whose benefit is availed by all the respectable saints and a number of devotees of the city. Similarly, in the Haveli of H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shree, a Dhoon is performed regularly by the ladies devotees in the pious company of H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala Shree and H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala Shree. With the inspiration of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad Temple, and under the guidance of the same Kothari Swami Mukund Swami, V.P. Swami, D.K. Swami, Vishnu Swami, a beautiful arrangement Dhoon is organized during the pious Dhanur-maas. The services of the Parshads and young Hari Bhaktas and devotees of Bapunagar were inspirational. On this occasion many devotees have rendered their services for Dhoon of the whole month whereas many devotees how rendered their services for Dhoon on daily basic.

(Kalpesh Patel)

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Chandrasan Village

Chandrasan Village is situated at a distance of 5 k.ms. to the North of the Sanand-Viramgam Road. This village is of maternal side of Saint Purnanad Swami who was contemporary of Shri Hari and who was considered to be one of the Nand saints. Swami was borne in this village and he had passed away to Akshardham in this village only. The whole life of Swami was spent in this village for emancipation of the villagers. He had also constructed one Hari Mandir which is still there in the village. Maholla wherein Swami spent his life is blessed with the blessings that those who would pass away in this Maholla would attain Akshardham. And this blessing has proved true even today.

Excepting their invitation of the devotees of village Chandrasan H.H. Acharya Shree 1008 Shree Kaushalendra Maharaj graced this pious village for the first time on 26.11.2008. A great samaiya was performed by the villagers and thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Aarti of the Lord and blessed the devotees in the Sabha.

All the devotees were reminded of the relations of Sadguru Purnanand Swami with Maharaj and the incident wherein Swami had informed Sadguru Gopalanand Swami that he would go to Dham only when Maharaj would come to take him. And in fact Maharaj had come to take him. This Sabha was conducted by Shri P.P. Swami and Shri Shyamcharan Swami of Jetalpur.

Akshar Nivasi H.H. Shri Acharya Shree Vasudevprasadji Maharaj had graced this village. So after a very long time the present Acharya graced this village and therefore, the devotees of the village were very much pleased.

(Chimanbhai Patel, Bhatwala)

19th Patotsav of Himatnagar Temple

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Shree Kaushalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji and Shastri Swami Harijivandasji (Mahant Shri) 19th Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Himatnagar was celebrated.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had specially graced this occasion and had performed Abhishek ritual of the idol of Chintamani Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj. Thereafter, Annakut Aarti was performed and a Sabha was conducted. The host Aksharniwasi Balulal Soni family (Hadiyolwala) had performed poojan of H.H. Shree Mota Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. Saints from the places like Torda, Sokli, Ahmedabad, Ider, Mansa and Prantij had graced the occasion and had blessed the devotees. At last, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shree blessed the whole Sabha.

The vote of thanks was delivered by the host Devendrabhai Soni. The Sabha was conducted by Mahant Swami Harijivandas and in the end all had availed the benefit of Maha Prasad.

(Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal)

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan in Jetalpur Dham

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Shree Kaushalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Aatmaprakashdasji, Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized from 04.11.2008 to 10.11.2008 in the pious company of Shri Revtiji Baldevji Harikrishna Maharaj and under the guidance of Shri P.P. Swami. The Parayan was organized by Satsangee Mahila Mandal was Aslali village and the devotees Manilal Bhailalbhai Patel family of Aslali was the host of this Parayan. The spoke person of the Parayan was Shastri Swami Hari OM Prakashdasji who is also running Shree Swaminarayan Sanskrit Maha Vidhyalaya. Accepting the invitation of Mahila Mandal, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shree, H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala Shree, H.H. Shree Gadiwala Shree and Shri Raja thus, the whole Dharmakul had granted the divine benefit of Darshan and blessings to the devotees. During the course of the Parayan Shree Krishna Pragatyotsav and Rukmani Vivah were celebrated very joyously. Arrangement of Maha Prasad for the 7 days was made by the host family. On the day of concluding ceremony of Parayan, H.H. Shree Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion, had performed Purnahuti Aarti and had blessed the whole Sabha. All the arrangement on the occasion was made by Mahant K.P. Swami wherein saints of various places and relatives of the host family had participated.

(Pujarai Bhakti Swami)

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan in Visnagar

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Shree Kaushalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shri

P.P. Swami in the memory of Aksahrniwasi Shri Dalpatbhai Mangaldas Bhavasar, Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized from 02.11.2008 to 08.11.2008 by Shri Jagrutiben and Shri Hasumatiben, the daughters of Bhavasar family. The spokesperson of the Parayan was Shastri Bhati Nandandas Guru Shri P.P. Swami (Jetalpurdham). Spokesperson of Samhita Path was Sadguru Shastri Swami Uttampriyadasji (Mehsana). During the course of the Parayan Shree Krishna Pragatyotsav and Rukmani Vivah were celebrated very joyously, wherein a large number of devotees had participated. Accepting the invitation of the host family H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and had blessed all the devotees.

On the day of concluding ceremony of Parayan, H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shree had graced the occasion and had granted the divine pleasure of Darshan and blessings to the ladies devotees. Many saints from various places had come on this occasion and availed to the devotees the benefit of their Amrit Vani. On this occasion devotees of the village and Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had rendered praiseworthy services.

(Mahant Swami K.P. Swami).

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shee in Kanotar the place of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Shree Kaushalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shri P.P. Swami, a special programme of gracing the houses of devotees of the village Kanotar by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was organized on 09.11.2008. All the devotees performed Samaiya of H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj. Thereafter, on the occasion of Tulsi Vivah H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the host devotee Shri Motibhai Bhurabhai Bharwad. From there H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the village Shiyal and the new house of the devotee Shri Arvindbhai Kanjibhai from there H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the houses of the devotee Shri Rohitsinh Mangalsinh (Bornawala) at village Bagodara and had blessed him and then returned to Ahmedabad.

(Mahant K.P. Swami, Jetalpur)

News of our Educational Institute

Maths, Science exhibition of S.V.S Class organized by Tejendraprasadji Education and Research Foundation (TERF) run by H.H. Acharya Shri Devendraprasadji Kelvani Trust was inaugurated by H. H. Shree Lalji Maharaj 108 Shree Vrajendraprasadji. The Hon'ble Secretary of the institute, Shastri Swami Aatmaprakashdasji had remained present on the occasion.

About 110 students and 55 teachers of 52 schools had participated in this Science Fare. On this occasion about more than 2000 students and 500 parents had visited a Science Fare.

(Principal TERF Secondary School).

Invocation Ceremony of Kapadwanj Temple

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Swami Narayanswaroopdasji of Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad, invocation ceremony of idol images was organized in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kapadwanj under the guidance of Sadguru Shastri Swami Mukund Prasaddasji (Gadhpur). In view of the ceremony a three days Shri Hariyag and three days Shrimad Bhagwat Samaskandh Parayan was organized from 20.11.2008 to 22.11.2008. Sadguru Shastri Swami Ghanshyam Prakashdasji was the spoke-person of the Parayan on 22.11.2008 H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and all the villagers had performed a great Samaiya by organizing a grant procession. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Aarti of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj the picture image of Shri Narnarayandev and invocation Aarti of Shri Ganpatiji and Shri Hanumanji Maharaj in the new temple. Thousand of devotes had availed the benefit of Darshan on the occasion. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the Sabha and had performed concluding Aarti of Katha. In the Sabha organized by the occasion the host family and the trustees had performed Poojan, Archan and Aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings.

During this celebration, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had remained present and had granted a divine pleasure of Darshan and blessings to the Hari Bhaktas. Similarly, H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shree had also blessed the ladies devotees.

In the Sabha organized in the occasion Shstri Dharmakishordas (representative of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad Temple) Chief Kothari Bapu Swami of Vadtal Temple, Mahant Swami of Kankariya Temple had delivered the speeches suitable to the occasion. Mahant Shastri Swami Aatmaprakashdasji from Jetalpur, Sadguru Swami Jagatprakashdasji from Ahmedabad etc. saints had remained present on the first day of the Mahotsav and had availed the benefit of the divine speech to the devotees. The complete planning of the occasion of a accomplished under beautiful supervision of Sadguru Shastri Mukund Swami (Gadpur) and Sadguru Swami Vishnuprasaddasji Guru Swami Jagatprakashdasji had also rendered his services in this planning of the occasion.

At last, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha and had preached to the devotees that if they would remain ardent devotees of Lord Shri Narnarayandev then only they would get emancipation. They should also maintain the prescribed rule of performing Darshan in the temple every day. The Sabha was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Anand Jivandasji.

(Shastri D.K. Swami).

Katha Parayan in Lavarpur

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji, in the memory of Aksahr Nivasi devotee Keshavlal Bechardas, Shrimad Bhagwat Panchanah Parayan was organized from 04.11.2008 to 08.11.2008. Shastri Swami Abhishekprasaddas Guru Shastri Swami Narayan Vallabhdasji was the spoke-person of the Katha of the Parayan. The devotee Dilipbhai Keshavlal Patel family had rendered all the services as the host of the Katha Parayan on 08.11.2008 that is on the day of concluding ceremony, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the village and all the villagers had performed Samaiya by organizing a grand procession. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Aarti of Thakorji in the Temple and had graced the Sabha. The host family had performed Poojan, Archan & Aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. After the inspirational speeches of the saints, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the Sabha and had directed all the devotees to remain under the shelter of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev. Accepting the invitation of the ladies devotees H.H. Shri Gadiwala Shri has blessed the occasion and had granted the pleasure of Darshan and blessing of devotees and ladies. The Sabha was conducted by Shastri Anandjivandas.

(Swami Dharmakishordas)

Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Bopal

On the New Year Day, Annakut of various items was offered to Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Bopal. Moreover, in view of Dev Uthi Ekadashi and Purnahuti of Chatur-msas a festival celebrated by offering various vegetables and performing Aarti of Thakorji. Mahant swami had made beautiful arrangement. *(Pravinbhai Upadhyay)*

Tulsi-Vivah in Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Naranpura.

In the pious company of the Lord Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj and with the direction of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Shreeji Prakashdasji, a great Tulsi-Vivah was organized on 09.11.2008. Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Naranpura wherein a number of saints and thousands of devotees had participated from the side of the bridegroom the host and young devotee Shri Jalpeshbhai Nareshbhai Kamdar and from the side of the groom the host Shri Nareshbhai Natwarlal Bhavsar had rendered their services. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and had blessed the devotees. *(Gopal Bhagat Poojari)*

Parayan in Vihar village

With the mercy of Lord Shri Hari and with the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and whole Dharmakul family and with the inspiration of Akshar Nivasi Jogi Swami, Yogeshwardasji, Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Chhaipaiya former Mahant) and Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Narayan Ghat) and with the blessings of Akshar Nivasi Chanchalben Joitaram Patel and Aksharniwasi Joitaram Parshottamdas Patel, Shrimad Satsangi Bhusan Panchanah Parayan was organized from 02.11.2008 to 06.11.2008 by the devotee Shri Joitaram Patel family (Ghanshyam Constructions Company) at Village Vihar – the place of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj. Sadgruru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Sadgruru Shastri Swami Narayan Vallabhdasji, Sadgruru Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji, Sadgruru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdasji where the spoke persons of the Parayan Sadgruru Shastri Swami Bhakti Swami (Americawala) was the spoke person of Samhita Path.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced the occasion on 02/11/2008 and had granted blessings to the host family and all the devotees. Accepting the invitation of the hosts devotees Shri Lalitaben Kantilal Patel and all the ladies devotees, H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala had graced the occasion and had remained present on the occasion. On the date of concluding ceremony on 06/11/2008, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion and all the villagers had performed a Samaiya by organizing a great procession. Then H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed aarti of Thakorji in the temple and had graced the Sabha. In the Sabha the devotees Shri Kantibhai, Shri Amrutbhai, Shri Dahyalal, Shri Popatlal, Shri Babulal, Shri Jayantibhai, Shri Sureshbhai and the sons and grand sons of the host devotee Shri Kantibhai etc. families had performed Pooja, Archan and aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessing. After the inspirational speeches of the learned saints, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha. The Sabha was conducted beautifully by Shri Nana P.P. Swami. In the arrangements Swami Suryaprakashdasji and the saints of Ahmedabad had remained.

(Brahmchari Rajeshwaranandji, Poojari of ShriNarnarayandev)

Shakotsav in Vasai (Dabhla) temple

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed great Shakotsav on 12/12/2008 in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dabhla. By performing the divine Darshan, the devotees had availed the rare benefit. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had made beautiful arrangements. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, after the inspirational speeches of the saints, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha. Shastri Ghanshyam Swami (Mansa Mahant) of Jamiyatpura had been a source of inspiration on this occasion. *(Rajnibhai Bhavsar)*

New Vadaj temple

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj a group Maha-pooja was performed in the morning from 7 to 12 wherein about 101 devotees had availed the benefit. The main host was the devotee Shri Bhikhabhai Govindbhai parmar. In the morning on 01/12/2008, Parayan of our scriptures and Kirtan-Bhakti of Lila-Charitra were performed collectively.

(Shambhubhai Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Balasinor

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdas, a beautiful Tulsi-Vivah was organized. A great procession was also organized on the main roads of the village. Thereafter ritual of marriage was performed wherein saints and the devotees had also participated. The devotees had made the arrangement of Prasad constantly for two days. In the Sabha organized on the occasion Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji had explained the importance of Tulsi-Vivah and Dharmkul. *(Ramesh Bhagat)*

Our future Medical Camps

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Mota Maharaj, in view of Patotsav of Shri Narnarayandev temple, Ahmedabad, Choryasi of city of Kankaria temple and celebration of bicentennial Janma Jayanti of our Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, various 07 Medical Camps are proposed to be organized on Sunday 22/02/2009.

1) M.D. Physicians would render their services for Heart diseases, Diabetes and Blood Pressure.
2) M.S. Surgeons would render their services for stone, appendix, cancer, thyroid, etc.
3) Orthopedic Surgeons would render their services for bone related problems where in treatment of fracture and pain of body and bones would also be given.
4) A lady M.D. Gynecologist would render her services for the diseases relating to women.
5) E.N.T. Surgeon would render the services for the diseases relating to nose, ear and throat (including deafness, chill, and treatment of tonsils).
6) Ophthalmologist would render the services for the diseases relating to eye (including checking the number of eyes and cataract)
7) Expert doctors would render their services for the skin diseases.

A team of expert and experienced doctors would render their services free of cost including cardiogram and numbers of eyes.

Place : Shree Swaminarayan temple, Rambaug, Kankaria, Maruti Hall, Ahmedabad

Date : 22/02/2009 **Time** : morning from 9.00 to 12.00

Organizer : Dr. Rameshbhai Parikh

(Kankaria Swaminarayan temple)

Rampur Bhankoda

The place which was sanctified by the Lord Shree Swaminaryan with His own foot-steps, the place where the Lord had taken bath on a stone and had also accepted the simple meals. All the devotees of the village had performed Darshan of this stone of Prasadi and performed Aarti, Dhoon, Kirtan, Katha etc. from 5-30 to 7-00 in the morning in pious Dhanur Maas. Satsangi devotees had availed the benefit of Satsant by offering Annakut of various sweets and had had the Prasad.

(Arjanbhai G. Mori)

Muli Desh

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced Muli on pious day of Dev Diwali on Kartik Sud-15 and had perfomd Darshan of Muli Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. On this occasion, a grand Sabha of the saints and the devotees was organized in Sadguru Brahmanand Sabha Mandap. In the Sabha, Mahant Swami of Muli temple and other learned saints had delivered very inspirational speeches. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha. Shastri Swami Hariprakashdas had conducted the Sabha beautifully. *(Bharat Bhagat)*

Celebration of 3rd Patotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Swami Premjivandasji, Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan was organized from 08/11/2008 till 14/11/2008 on the occasion of Patotsav of the temple. Sadguru Shastri Swami Vishwaprakashdasji was the spokesperson of the Parayan and Shastri Vishviharidas was the spokesperson of the Samhita Path. The devotee Shri Rasikbhai Pragjibhai Chandarana was the host of the Samhita Path. Whereas with the inspiration of Sankhya Yogi Kamlaba, Sankhya Yogi Kokilaba, the devotee Shri Kirtiben Kantilal Shah (Kapadwanjwala) had availed the benefit of host of the Parayan. On this occasion cultural programme, Annakut and Tulsi Vivah were organized.

At 7-00 hours in the morning on 14/11/2008, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had performed Shodashopchar Mahabhishekam ritual of Thakorji. Thereafter Hariyag was concluded and then Kumbhi Poojan of the main gate and Poornahuti of the Katha were performed. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole Sabha.

This occasion was graced by H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala. Many saints from various places had graced the occasion of Patotsav. The Sabha was conducted by Shastri Bhaktinandandas. The whole arrangement was made by Shree Narnarayanddev Yuvak Mandal under the guidance of Shastri Premvallabhdas. Services of Poojari Vishwaswaroopdasji, Bhakti Swami and Kanu Bhagat were praiseworthy. Children of Bal-Sabha had presented a beautiful programme in the night. *(Shailendrasinh Zala)*

Satsang Sabha in village Balol- the birth place of Sadugur Devanand Swami

When H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj graced the pious place of Balol of Muli Desh on 25/11/2008 along with the saints, the villagers had warmly welcomed by performing Samaiya. Aarti was performed in both the temples. There was beautiful arrangement of Sabha by Mahant Swami of Muli Temple Shastri Swami Narayanprasaddasji. On this occasion Member of Legislative Assembly and resident of Limbdi and Honourable Minister Shri Kiritsinh Zala had come for Darshan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had honoured him and welcomed him. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, P.P. Swami (Jetalpurdham) had explained the importance of Dharmkul. Among other saints Mahant Swami of Muli temple Shri Shastri Swami Narayanprasaddasji, Sadguru Swami Jagatprakashdasji, Shastri Madhav Swami (Gadhpur), and Honourable Minister Shri Kiritsinh Rana and Labhubhai Kher had also talked about the Almighty Lord. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the whole Sabha.

The Sabha was conducted by Charadva Mahant Shastri Swami Hariprakashdas. Shri Shyam Swami, V.P. Swami, from Ahmedabad, Swami Laxmiprasaddasji, Anu Swami, Chandu Bhagat from Muli had remained present on this occasion.

Satsang Sabha at Timba village

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced timba village of Muli Desh on 01/12/2008. all the saints and the devotees had performed Samaiya and hailed the Dharmvanshi. Thereafter aarti of Thakorji was performed. After a beautiful speech of Shri P.P. Swami in the Sabha, Mahant of Muli Shastri Swami Naryanprasaddasji, Sadguru Swami Jagatprakashdasji etc, had delivered their learned speeches. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the blessed the whole Sabha. Sadguru Swami Laxmiswaroopdasji from Muli had remained present on the occasion. The Sabha was conducted by Shastri Swami Hariprakashdas (Charadva Mahant).

(Kothari Swami, Muli)

Khat-Muhurt of Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies), Vankaner

During the massive earthquake, Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies) of Vankaner was destroyed completed. For its new construction, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the Khat-Muhurt ritual organized in Vankaner. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Mahant of Muli temple Shastri Swami Narayanprasaddasji and the saints urged the people and the devotees to render their services and there was a flow of services by the devotees. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had blessed the Sabha and wished the expeditious completion of the reconstruction of the temple of ladies. The

Sabha was conducted by Shastri Swami Hariprakashdas. *(Bharat Bhagat)*

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Shri P.P. Swami of Jetalpurdham, Mahant Sadhu Bhaktvatsaldas and Haribhaktas had performed Mahamantra Dhoon, Janmangal Path etc. during the pious Dhanur Maas in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi. *(Vandanprakashdas)*

Ghanshyamnagar (Tal. Halvad)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, on Magsar Sud-4 Vachanamrit Parayan and Kirtan-Bhakti were performed collectively by the Haribhaktas. *(Gordhanbhai Kanzaria)*

Olpad

From many years Haribhaktas of Halar region have settled in Olpad, which was once graced by Shreeji Maharaj. With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, Satsang Sabha was conducted on every Thursday at houses of devotees in turn wherein importance of Gadi of both the desh is explained. *(Vivek Varu, Olpad)*

Overseas

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Cherry Hill (America)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and inspiration of Mahant Shastri Vishwaprakashdas, Pragatyotsav of our H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj was celebrated on the pious day of Vijayadashmi. Mahant Shastri Vishwaprakashdas had explained the importance of Dharmkul very beautifully. Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal had cut the cake and had celebrated Pragatyotsav. All the devotees had performed poojan-archan of picture image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and had obtained the blessings. A large number of devotees had availed this benefit. By arranging various types of utensils before Thakorji and by performing Kirtan-Bhakti, Sharadotsav was also celebrated wherein Swami had explained the importance of Sharad-Poornima. On the new year day after Diwali, Annakut was offered to the Lord Shri Narnarayandev, Shri Revati Baldevji, Shri Radhakrishnadev and Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj. At 12-00 hours Annakut aarti was performed wherein thousands of devotees had availed the benefit of Darshan. On this occasion Shri Dhyani Swami had arrived from Gandhinagar along with the saints. The saints and the devotees had welcomed them. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, swami had blessed all the devotees for the new year. Shastri Swami Vishwaprakashdas had explained the importance of Annakut. Prasad of Annakut was given to all the devotees. Shri Rajubhai (Vaduvala)- the President of the temple had delivered the Vote of Thanks. *(Kartik Patel, Vaduvala)*

Medical Health Fair conducted in America by SEWA

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Mota Maharaj, Bone Marrow Check Up was performed in our Boston temple under the auspices of Medical Health Fair conducted by I.S.S.O. Sewa. Renowned doctors had rendered their services wherein thousand of devotees had participated. In Toronto Canada temple, doctors had rendered their services for diagnosis of many diseases.

On the occasion of Bhoomi Poojan of our temple of Parsippany New Jersey, a Blood Donation Camp Health Fair was conducted in the pious company of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala. Thus through our SEWA institution, a number of local wellknown doctors render their services in each Chapter of I.S.S.O. *(Pravinbhai Shah)*

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia

On the pious day of the New Year after Diwali, a grant Annakut was performed before Thakorji in our Shree Swaminarayan temple. This temple was decorated beautifully with the series of lights. Mahant Swami of the temple had explained the importance of Diwali and Annakut in English to all the devotees. Mahant Swami had also performed aarti of 108 lamps and it was an advantage of rare kind which many devotees had availed. Shri Rohitbhai Pandya had got performed Chopda-Poojan as per the rituals.

In the evening H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala had graced the temple for Darshan along with Shri Binduraja, Shri Saumya Kumar and Shri Suvrat Kumar and had blessed all the ladies.

On the pious day of Prabodhini Ekadashi, Tulsi Vivah was performed whose advantage was availed by the host families. A large number of devotees had thronged together for Darshan of aarti of Tulsiji and the Lord. Mahant Swami had beautifully explained the importance of Tulsi-Vivah in English to the devotees. Here devotees perform pilgrimage on their feet on every Poonam and with the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, the activity of Satsang is being run very nicely. *(Pravinbhia Shah)*

Washington D.C. (I.S.S.O., U.S.A.)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a programme of Katha, Kirtan, Bhakti, Thal Aarti etc. was organized on Sunday 12th October, 2008 in the evening from 3.30 to 8.00 in the Satsang Sabha conducted in the hall of Servana Park community Center. Shri Siddheshwar Swami from Bostant Temple had narrated Katha of Vachnamrit 48 and 64 in mike to cell-phone. On the occasion of Pragayotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the pious day Vijya Dashmi, Poojan and Aarti of picture image was performed and in the Sabha conducted on the occasion important of Dharmakul was explained.

On Saturday 25th October 2008 from 5.45 to 8.45 in the evening a Satsang Sabha was conducted in community hall of club house in hurendedun of Verginia State wherein Katha of 273 vachnamrit and Kirtan, Bhakti, Thal Aarti etc. were performed. On Sunday 2nd November, Annakut was offered to

Shri Hari in the evening of 3 to 8 Bhajan and Kirtan were performed . Shri Vrajvallabh Swami from New Jersey had explained the importance of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev in Vachnamrit 48 and 64. He had also recommended that each Hari Bhakta should keep and idol image of Shri Narnarayandev in Pooja and to perform Poojan and Aaradhna of it regularly. A large number of Hari Bhaktas are availing the benefit of Satsang. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, activity of Satsang is increases and strengthening day by day.

(Kanubhai Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Leicester (I.S.S.O., U.K.)

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shastri Swami Kesavcharandas and Shastri Ganshyamdasji a Dhoon of Shri Swaminarayan Mahamantra was organized for 4 hours on 7.12.2008 in the memory of Aksharniwasi Shri Damjibhai Jairambhai Kacha, his family had availed the benefit of being the host. A large number of Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Dhoon. *(Mantri Kanjibhai Malvi)*

Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Stredham (I.S.S.O., U.K.)

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, Chopda Poojan on the pious day of Diwali and Anaakut of various items to Thakorji on the New Year day were organized in our Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Stredham. A large number of Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Darshan. On 09.11.2008 a beautiful occasion of Tulsi-Vivah was organized. The devotee Shri Hasmukhbhai Dahyabhai family was the host on the side of Tulsi Mata and the devotee Shri Manubhai Dahyabhai family was the host of the lord Shri Vishnu. Tulsi Vivah was celebrated with great joy and enthusiasm. A large number of devotes had availed the benefit of Darshan.

(Jayesh Waghela).

Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Sydney (I.S.S.O., Australia)

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, a grant Annakut was offered to Thakorji on the occasion of New Year day in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sydney. In the Sabha organized by the occasion, children had performed a beautiful programme of Kirtan Bhakti. Devotee Shri Ganshyambhai had explained the importance's of Annakut. About 400 Hari Bahktas had remained present on the occasion devotees Shri Mayaben Mahendrabhai Amin family and devotee Shri Bipinbhai Mistri Family were the hosts of the occasion on 09.11.2008 a Sabha was organized on the occasion of Ekadashi by the family of Shri Mukeshbhai Amin on 16.11.2008 grand arrangement was made wherein Shri Pareshbhai Juthni family was the host on behalf of the bridegroom and devotee Shri Ketanbhai Menta family was the host of Tulsi Mata all the Hari Bhaktas had availed the benefit of Darshan of Tulsi Vivah. *(Tejas B. Patel)*

Perth Australia

The devotees of our Shri Narnarayandev Gadi and native Kutch, President Shri Kantilalbhai Vishram Gopal Pindoria, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustees and members of the Executive Committee informs with all humility and prayer to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj that,

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, all the Hari Bhaktas have been performing Bhajan Kirtan regularly as per our custom and tradition. The letter of blessings of New Year of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was read over in the Sabha. Furthermore, announcement of "Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav" – on completion of 200 years of Pragatyotsav of our Adi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was made in the Sabha. All the festivals of our Sampradaya are celebrated with great enthusiasm here.

A great Annakut Utsav was organized on the New Year Day in the evening from 6 to 10 in Lace Hensman Hall of morli area. A large number of Hari Bhaktas had availed its benefit and had performed Bhajan, Kirtan, Dhoon, Thal and Aarti. The throne of Thakorji was shining of series of light . Furthermore, various delicious items were prepared and offered by the devotees to Thakorji.

For the first time a programme of Tulsi-Vivah was organized and therefore, all the Hari Bhaktas were very much happy. All the devotees have faith that the Lord Shri Swaminarayan and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj would fulfill their noble idea of having Shri Swaminarayan Temple in the area.

The devotee Shri Dhanji Nanji Hallai family (Meghpar, Kutch) was the host of side of the bridegroom and the devotee Shri Hirji Kanji Vekaria family (Baladia, Kutch) was the host of the side of the bribe. This programme of Tulsi-Vivah of joyously enjoyed by the ladies devotes by singing the songs of marriage of the occasion. The host families had rendered their services of Prasad which was offered to all the devotees. The programme was celebrated in the morning from 7 to 2 in the afternoon.

The president Shri Kantilalbhai Gopal and Mantri Shri Manjibhai Bhanderi were the source of Guidance and inspiration during the whole programme. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj here activity of Satsang has been increasing day by day.

(Mantri Shri, Perth Satsang Samaj, Executive Committee)

Miracle – blessing of Dharma Vansi

All the ardent devotees having faith towards Shree Narnayandev Gadi, and towards the originally Shri Swaminarayan Sampradaya have had witnessed one or the other miracle of Dharma Vansi viz. to obtain new life, saved for fetal, accident birth of a son and unaccepted good result in our daily routine life etc. It is also witnessed that many young ardent devotees have been cured of incurable deceases like Cancer due to the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. After such blessings it is found that medical report of such devotees have been normal. Such miracles can be performed only by the son of almighty God and who is Gadipati of Shri Narnarayandev Gadi.

One such miracle occurred in the life of the devotee Shri

Shasiba Narayanbhai Patel (Native place Vadu, at present Chicago). This incident is worthy to be remembered because it is due to ardent faith in H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Before 10 years devotee Shri Shasiben was waiting on Hithro Airport on U.K. to catch a flight of British Airways to reach Mumbai but due to complication of immigration flight was delayed and the connecting flight was missed. There was no other another flight in the evening meanwhile, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj arrived to Mumbai from Kenya along with the saints and Shasiba had a change to have Darshan of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj from distance. The son in law of Shasiba who had come to receive Shasiba prayed H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and narrated was difficulty. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed and stated that a ticket would be confirmed. And surprisingly at a last moment ticket of another passenger was consult and thereby ticket of devotee Shri Shasiba was confirmed.

Another such incident was occurred just before one year in Chicago. Shasiba went for a Medical Checkup and she was diagnose with the fetal decease of cancer but the devotee Shri Shasiba had great faith and confidence in the Lord Shri Swaminarayan and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. She expressed her last desire to render the services of rupees one lac in Shri Swaminarayan Museum and to render the service of Thal- Rasoi in Shri Narnarayandev Temple, Ahmedabad and Shri Swaminaryan Temple, Jetalpurdham. She was very much from in her faith that she had had Darshan of Shreeji Maharaj in H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. She was also sure about her life. It was very difficult for the doctors and a team of experts to understand the normal medical reports of the devotees of Shri Shasiba which was nothing else but the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj recently the devotees Shri Shasiba and Shri Naranbhai visited Ahmedabad to attain marriage function of their Grand son. After arriving in Ahmedabad the directly went to Shri Swaminarayn Museum Naranpura and also to Shri Narnarayandev Temple, Ahmedabad for Darshan and to render the services as per the noble intention of the devotee Shri Shasiba. The devotee Shri Naranbhai narrated all the facts to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and obtained the blessings. There are a number of such miracles of our dharmakul. (Pravinbhai Patel, Vaduwala).

AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad– Shri Ashrumatiben Navinchandra Vadilal Choksi passed away to Akshardhaam while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Mumbai Mulund – Devotee Shri Hirjibhai Chauhan (age 73 years) (Jamsar, Halari, Mulidesh) passed away to divine abode of God on Saturday (06-12-2008) amidst the chants of Mahamantra. He was an ardent devotee of Shri Narnarayandev Gadi and Muli Shri Radhakrishnadev and Dharmkul.

Visnagar- Devotee Shri Kanubhai Joitaram Sathwara, the father of the devotee Shri Amitbhai Sathwara, the President of Shri Sahjanand Kishor Mandal passed away to divine abode of God (10-12-2008) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Rampara (Tal. Vadhwan, Muli Desh)- Devotee Shri Karsanbhai Dahyabhai Vadhel passed away to divine abode of God (12-12-2008) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Vadu (Tal. Kadi)- Devotee Shri Dhirajkumar Vishnubhai Patel (age 18 years) passed away to Akshardhaam. May Shree Hari grant patience and energy to his family members.

Balol (Bhal)- Devotee Shri Rameshbhai Naranbhai Butiya passed away to Akshardham (27-12-2008) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad- Devotee Shri Shardaben, the wife of Vinaykant Hirabhai Patel (Sojitrawala) passed away to Akshardham (07-10-2008) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

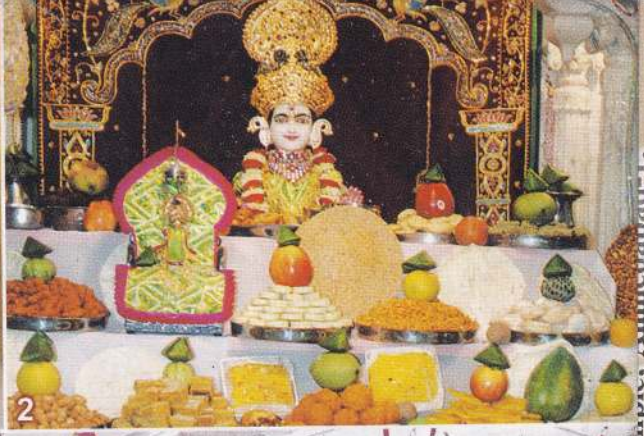
Patna Kuva (Tal.Dehgam) - Devotee Shri Vipulkumar Vasantkumar Soni (age 19 years) passed away to Akshardham (06-12-2008) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Bapunagar (Ahmedabad)- Devotee Shri Puriben Tapubhai Ansodariya (age 85 years) the mother of the devotee Shri Babubhai Tapubhai Aansodariya (Delight Refrigeration) passed away to Akshardham (15-12-2008) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

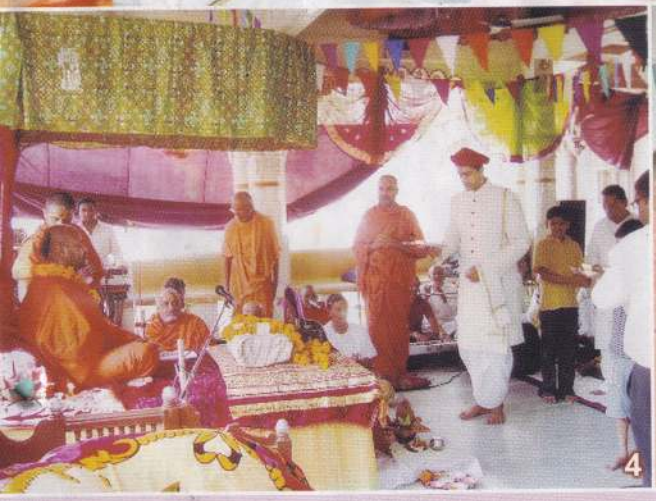
Ahmedabad – Devotee Shri Surendrabhai Kantilal Dave (native place Mahudha, at present Ahmedabad) passed away to divine abode of God (21-12-2008) amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Editor, Printer and Publisher : Mahant Swami Narayanswaroopdasji for Shree Swaminarayan Temple Kalupur, Ahmedabad. Printed at Shree Swaminarayan Printing press, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Pin-380 001 and Published at and for Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad (Gujarat) Pin-380 001.





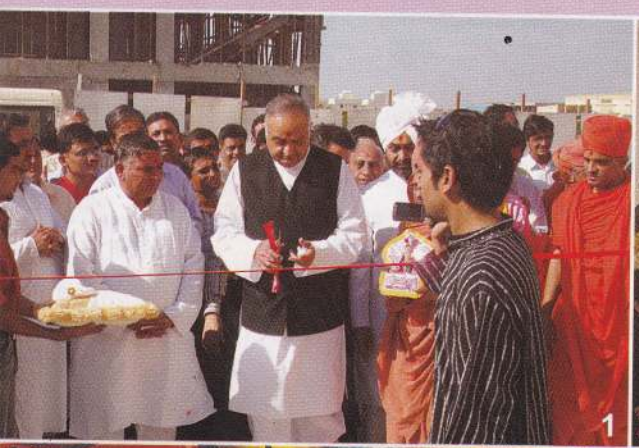


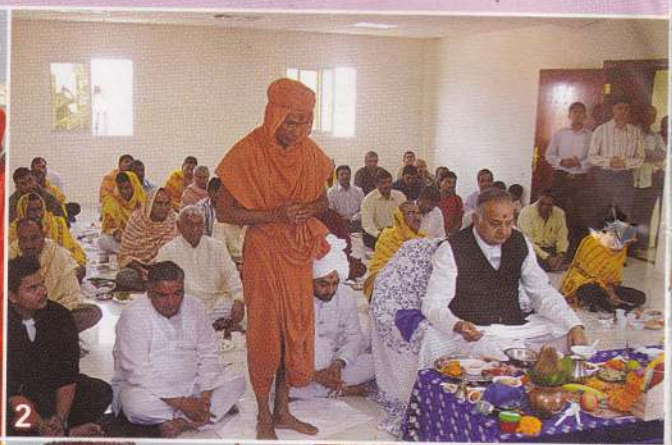




(1) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing aarti of patotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar. (2) Annakut Darshan of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj in Limbdi temple. (3) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessing the son of the devotee Shri Kantibhai J. Patel along with Swami Devprakashdasji on the occasion of the Paryan organized at village Vihar. (4) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing aarti of Vyaspith on the occasion of Parayan organized at Jetalpurdham. (5) Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Dev Swami (Mahant Shri Naranghat) and the hosts performing aarti of Patotsav in our temple, Badrinath.

Registered under RNI - No - GUJENG/2007/20198 " Permitted to post at Ahd PSO on 11 the every month under postal Regd. No. GUJ. 582 issued SSP Ahd Valid up to 31-12-2011

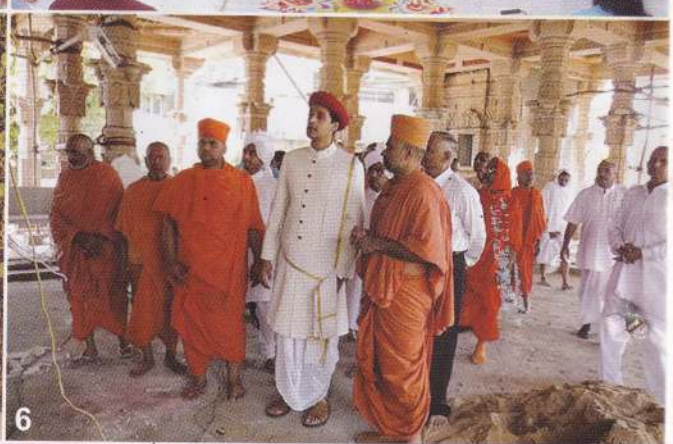












) H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj inaugurating the new factory of the devotee Shri Bhimjibhai ınk (Halar, Muli Desh) in Dubai along with the other saints and the deotees. (2) H.H. hri Mota Maharaj sitting in Mahapooja of the office of the devotee Shri Bhimjibhai ank in Dubai and granting Darshan and the saints and the devotees availing the enefit. (3) Annakut Darshan in our temple, Cherry Hill (America). (4) Annakut Darshan our temple, Sydney (Australia). (5) Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj granting Darshan in ur temple, Colonia (America). (6) H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Shri P.P. Swami bserving the inner temple of our new Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mahesana, on the ccasion of the installation of Vijay Stambh.

Shivji Art (079) 26880916, 9879606686