June-July 2009

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

Shri Swaminarayan Museum
Narayanpura, Ahmedabad-13.
Phone : 27499597 - 9825309597
Fax : 27419597
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With the directions of Shri Narnarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri

Controlling Editors & Publishers
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji
MAHANT
SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE
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Phone : 22132170, 22136818
Karbhari office : 22121515.
Fax : 22176992.
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श्री स्वामिनारायण

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 3 No : 26-27 June-July-2009

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जन्मदीयम् जन्मदीयम् जन्मदीयम्

With the support of mind, body and money of all the devotees of our Sampradaya we celebrated *Janma Dwishatabdi Utsav 'Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav'* of our Aadi Acharya of our Ahmedabad Shri Narnarayandev Pith and the son of the Lord Shree Hari H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, who was entrusted with the responsibility of development and progress of our *Sampradaya* by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan Himself by performing *Poojan-Aarti*. This three-days *Utsav* has turned out to be a permanent memory of all the devotees of our *Sampradaya*. It was an opportunity to obtain the pleasure of the Lord Shree Hari. Thousands of devotees and saints who visited and participated in this *Mahotsav* from various places all over the world viz. America, England, Australia and Africa and response of all them was unanimously 'Wonderful!' The whole *Utsav* was telecast live on internet and therefore a large number of devotees could perform *Darshan* of this *Mahotsav* at their home. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj granted to the devotees the benefit of *Divya Darshan* and blessings. On the other hand in the section of the ladies devotees, H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri, H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwalashri and H.H. Shri Raja granted to the ladies devotees the benefit of *Darshan* and blessings. Lacs of devotees also availed the benefit of divine *Prasad* during this *Mahotsav*.

The divine land of Shree Ganesh Housing Corporation situated at Sola was rendered generously in service for this *Mahotsav* by the devotee Sheth Shri Govindbhai C. Patel. This devotee was so much pleased with the grand celebration of this *Maha-Mahotsav* that, he donated 2500 yards land for construction of *Hari-temple* in this area, so that this Mahotsav remained a permanent memory in the minds and hearts of all the devotees. *Abhishek* and *Chhapan-Bhog* were also offered to the Lord Shree Narnarayandev in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad. The inner temple was lit with the series of lights. Those who had had an opportunity to perform *Darshan* of this *Utsav*, full of many incidents and Divine *Darshan*, were really very lucky. If for one or the other reasons or due to certain circumstances, any devotee could not perform *Darshan* of this Mahotsav, then this '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav Special Issue*' would remain a befitting alternative of *Darshan*.

It is an humble prayer to the Almighty Lord that the Lord may remain pleased and grant Ashish unto all those devotees-saints-members of Scheme Committee, hosts, donors and volunteer who rendered their services in this *Maha-Mahotsav* directly or indirectly.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

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

(MAY- 2009)



1. Graced Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Biliya on the occasion of *Patotsav*.

2-3 Graced Bhuj (Kachchh) and Dudhai (Kachchh)

4-5 Graced Shri Swaminarayan templem Mathura on the occasion of *Patotsav*.

6. Graced Shri Swaminarayan temple Bayad (Station) on the occasion of Patotsav.
7. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Subhasbhai Morarjibai Patel, Ranela (Panchmahal).
8. Graced Shree new Swaminarayan temple, Muvada of Merai (Panchmahal) on the occasion of invocation of idol images.
9. Graced Chadasna village.
   Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Narayanghat on the occasion of Maruti-Yagna.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple Sakapur (Vijapur) on the occasion of celebration of Rajat-Jayanti Parayan.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies) Karmshaktir, on the occasion of invocation of idol images.
12. Graced the village Bhadardi (Idar).

13-14. Granced Kanthkol, Bhuj (Kachchh)

15. Graced Dhulkot (Halar, Mulidesh).
16. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Augan (Tal. Sanand) on the occasion of Patotsav.
17. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Gandala Chhaganlal Patel, Gulabpura, on the occasion of Parayan.
18. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Memnagar-Bhaktinagar, on the occasion of Patotsav.
23. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jesangpura (Khakariya) on the occasion of invocation of idol images.
24. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Motera, on the occasion of *Parayan* and *Shobha-Yatra*.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jivrajpark, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
25. Graced the village Bhundiya (Gandhinagar) on the occasion of Parayan.
26. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Prantij, on the occasion of Patotsav.
27. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nava Vadaj, on the occasion of Patotsav.
28. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ghanshyambhai Becharbhai Patel, Gandhinagar.
31. Graced the inauguration function of Bhimjibhai Nanjibhai School, Nava Naroda.

(JUNE-2009)

1-3 Celebration of *Janma-Dwishatabdi* 'Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav' of Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.
5. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Idar, on the occasion of Patotav.
6. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ratanpur (Panchmahals) on the occasion of invocation of the idol image of the Shree Hanumanji Maharaj.
10. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Bhikhabhai Manilal Patel (Mokhasanwala), Naranpura.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kashindra, on the occasion of Patotsav.
12. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Unjha (Brahmin Sheri), on the occasion of Patotsav.
19. Granted Saint Maha-Diksha.
20. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadnagar, on the occasion of Patotsav.
21. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khokhra, on the occasion of Patotsav.
23. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Natvargadh (Muli Desh), on the occasion of Patotsav.
24. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Hitendrakumar Bhagwanbhai Kanani, Rakhiyal. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Bhikhabhai Patel, Ranip.
25. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Ramanlal Jivanlal Patel, Chandisana.
27. Graced Mansar (Tal. Halvad, Muli Desh)
28. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Narayanghat.

APPOINTMENT DIARY OF H.H. SHRI LALJI MAHARAJ
(MAY- 2009)



10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Karmshakti, Nava Naroda, on the occasion of Shobha-Yatra.
14. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dholka on the occasion of Patotsav.
16. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Viratnagar-Odhav on the occasion of Patotsav.

(JUNE-2009)

8. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Station-Bayad on the occasion of Patotsav.

DHARMKUL VANDANA MAHOTSAV

- Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ahmedabad Mahant Swami)

There are many Sampradayas in this world. But among all of them, the place of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya is unique. Any sect or Sampradaya is established by Acharya of that Sampradaya. For example, *Pusti-Marg* was established by Vallabhacharaya Mahaprabhu, *Advait Sampradaya* by Shankaracharya, *Vishitadvait Sampradaya* by Ramanujacharya and *Uddhav Sampradaya* by Ramanand Swami. Whereas the founder of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya is the Lord Shree Sahajanand Swami himself. During his own life-time, he made lacs of people of Gujarat, Kachchh, Saurashtra, Marvad, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as his followers and *Satsangis*. In Gujarat thousands of people were made the saints, *Parshads* and *Brahmchari* and *Tyagis*.



The first ever temple of our Sampradaya was got constructed in Ahmedabd-Manchester of Gujarat through Sadguru Anandanand Swami and He himself idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Thereafter temples were also got constructed at Muli, Bhuj, Vadtal, Jetalpur, Gadhpur, Dholka, Junagadh and Dholera and himself installed the idol images in these temples. This was a very critical period. The whole Desh was divided into small states and Rajwada. The people were living a life under the constant fear of the Britishers who were ruling over the whole region. And yet the Lord Shreeji Maharaj got developed wells and step-wells, lakes, ponds, Annakshetra and many Yagnas of social welfare in Jetalpur, Dabhan and many other places and revived the extinct tradition of Vedic Yagnas by offering Daan and Dakshina to the Brahmins.

The Lord also got created the scriptures like Vachanamrit, Satsangijeevan, Satsangibhushan through the learned Nand saints in Sanskrit, Hindi and Gujarati languages and through these scriptures revived the honour of Gujarati language.

At last for religious administrative responsibility, the Lord Shree Hari established on His seat, two Gadi- in Ahmedabad Shree Narnarayandev Pith and in Vadtal Shree Laxminarayandev Pith. In the Gadi of Ahmedabad, Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was established as Acharya and in the Gadi of Vadtal, Shree Raghuvirji Maharaj was established as Acharaya of Sampradaya.

The Lord Shree Hari directed Aadi Acharya of Shree Narnarayandev Desh Gadi Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj that, he has established on the place of Dharmkul and therefore all the remaining tasks of the Lord shall be accomplished by him and also blessed him that '*I shall always be with you.*' The Lord also directed Acharya Maharaj to nourish the Sampradaya and to construct a temple in Chhapaiya- the birth place of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and also to propagate the Sampradaya everywhere by getting the temples and Hari-temples constructed at various places.

Following the directions of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj, Aadi Acharya of Shree Narnarayandev Gadi H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj got constructed a big temple with domes in Chhapaiya-dham wherein the idol images of Shree Harikrishnamaharaj, Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj etc. were installed and performed invocation ceremony. Besides this, temples were also got constructed at the places like Kachchh-Mandvi, Idar and Siddhpur and the idol images of Shree Harikrishna Maharaj, Shree Gopinathji Dev, Shree Radhakrishnadev etc. deities were installed. Even in the village Bamroli, situated in the valley of Chambal in Madhya Pradesh, many people were made *Satsangis* and a Hari temple was got constructed in the village and blessed the village with permanent protection from *Yamaduta*, which is true even today.

Shri Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhprasadji Maharaj spent the whole life with the learned saints, and carrying the vehicles like chariots, carts, elephants and horses. While carrying on such a great responsibility of the whole Sampradaya, he always remembered his father the Lord Shree Hari. He created Kirtans in Hindi, Vraj and Avadhi languages and while reading them one experiences the Great Poet in him. While performing Dhyan, Pooja of the Lord Shree Hari, Acharya Maharaj was so much engrossed that, once a scorpio bit him constantly for an hour and yet he was not aware of it!

On completion of 200 years of our such great Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, with the noble concept of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and the wish of our future Acharya Lalji Maharaj H.H. 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj, all the saints and the devotees took up the task of making all the arrangements for celebration of 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' were made and with the support and co-operation of all the saints, Parshads and devotees the great Three-day *Utsav* of 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' was celebrated on the ground of Shree Ganesh Housing in Sola-Thaltej area of Ahmedabad. The arrangement of this *Mahotsav* proved to be the best arrangement of all the *Utsavs* celebrated in *Sampradaya*.

During this Mahotsav arrangement of Yagna was made by the team of saints under the guidance of Shastri Swami Premswaroopdasji. All the arrangements were satisfactory. Though more than 3500 devotees availed the benefit of Mahapooja and yet there was no any kind of deficiency observed anywhere. The learned Shastriji got performed all the rituals of Yagna in Vedic tradition.

The whole planning was made by the members of the Scheme Committee, Mahant

Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Brahmchari Swami Vasudevanandji, Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji (Mahant, Shree Naranghat temple), Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat, devotee Shri Ratibhai patel, devotee Shri Dashrathbhai Patel, devotee Shri G.K.Patel, devotee Shri Ramanbhai Patel and devotee Shri Dr.K.K.Patel and Swami Krishnavallabhdasji, Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur), Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji and amongst Haribhaktas Shree Pravinbhai Nasit (Engineer), Shri Jayrambhai Kanali, Shri Ishwarbhai Gangarmabhai, Shri Manojbhai, Shri Ratibhai (Devpura), Shri Govindbhai (Kundal), Shri Ghanshyambhai (Vihar) etc.



Accordingly grand Sabha-Mandap, Yagna-Shala, Bhojan-Shala, Akhand Dhoon Mandap, Exhibition on Life of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, residence for the volunteers, office and Kitchen were beautifully prepared wherein thousands of devotees had rendered their services. In the services of Kitchen Swami Krishnavallabhdasji, Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji, Swami Shyamcharandasji, Swami Dharmswaroopdasji and swami Rajendraprasaddasji and many other known-unknown devotees had rendered their services. About 400 volunteers rendered their services day and night while rendering their services for serving the meals, cool water, butter milk, arrangement of Sabha-Mandap etc. In the Committee of the volunteers Shri Udayanbhai Maharaja, Shri Bharatbhai Thakkar, Shri Pravinbhai T. Patel (Vadu) and many other known-unknown devotees had rendered their services. In V.I.P. Section, a team of saints and Haribhaktas had also rendered the services for inviting the dignitaries of political, religious and social fields as also the industrialists, educationists, journalists etc. and honouring them on this occasion. Beautiful arrangements were made for this purpose.

In *'Vachanamrit Samhita-Path'* Shastri Akhileshwardasji, Shastri Vrajvallbhdasji (Muli) and Chaitanya Swami rendered their services for decorating the stage. In preparing Chhapan Bhog Annakut in Ahmedabad temple, services of Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, Swami Haricharandasji (Kalol) Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Yogi Swami and also the services of the devotees of Rajkot Shri Navinbhai and Shri Kiritbhai can never be forgotten.

Services of Committee for publication of literature, Committee for regulating Vehicles, Committee for Cleanliness, Committee for Blood Donation and Dhamkul Seva Samiti were wonderful. In *Akhand Mantra-Jaap* under

the guidance of Swami Swayamprakashdasji (Jaidevpura) and Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Dhrangadhra) saints and Haribhaktas of Khakharia-Zalawad performed Akhand Dhoon for three days constantly and added beauty to the whole Mahotsav. In the Finance Committee Shri Rasikbhai Dayalbhai Soni, Shri Chandrakantbhai Prabhudas Patel, Shri Jayantibhai Narsibhai Patel and Shri Jagjivanbhai Patel etc. haribhaktas and the saints had maintained perfect accounts. In the Committee of residence for the guests, Shri Dhananjaybhai K. Thakkar, Pankajbhai Bhavsar, Natubhai Gangarambhai, Tusharbhai Dashrathbhai Patel (Jamiyatpura), Dharmendrabhai Dayaljibhai, Atulbhai and Kaushikbhai etc. young devotees had also rendered their beautiful services.

In the planning of *Shobha-Yatra*, Nana P.P. Swami (Koteshwar Gurukul), Swami Raghuvircharandasji (Sokli Gurukul), Ranjitsinh Darbar (Naranghat), Atulbhai Manilal, Dahyabhai Somabhai, Haribhai, Amrutbhai Shivrambhai (Koshalendra Engg.) etc. saints and Haribhaktas took great pains to make it a grand success. Under the direct supervision of nana P.P. Swami and Ranjitsinh Bapu, the whole *Shobha-Yatra* was a perfect planning lacking in nothing.

In the Executive Committee Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji, Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji, Shastri Swami Premswaroopdasji, Vallabh Swami and guidance of members of the Scheme Committee Bramchari Swami Vasudevanandji, Swami Devprakashdasji, Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat, devotee Shri Ratibhai Khimjibhai Patel, devotee Shri Dashrathbhai Prahladbhai Patel, devotee Shri Ramanbhai Pranbhai Patel, devotee Shri Ganpatbhai K. Patel and devotee Dr. Kantibhai K. Patel was constantly available during the whole *Mahotsav*.

The main requirement of the Mahotsav is money without which nothing is possible. For this purpose, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj arranged the programme of pilgrimage of America wherein Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji, Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji, Shashtri Swami Ramkrishnadasji etc. saints also joined. First of all, with the co-operation of J.P. Swami, Shastri Hariprasaddas Swami, President Jagdishbhai Patel, Ghanshyambhai Bhagat (Mota), Vishnubhai (Dangarvawala) Ghanshyambhai Kavi and Vishnubhai Patel etc. leading devotees of the Committee collected funds in I.S.S.O. Itasca Chicago temple and extended co-operation in Mahotsav. Besides this beautiful and significant services were also rendered in I.S.S.O. Chapters by the saints and Haribhaktas. In Detroit Dr. Arvindbhai, Dr. Manoj Brahmbhatt, Himatbhai, Rajubhai etc. devotees were inspired by Brahmvihari Swami to render their good services. In Kalamaju Shri Dahyabhai Patel (D.P. Patel Sapadwala), Kanubhai P. Patel, Manibhai Ishwarbhai Patel (Vadu) rendered their good services. In Cleveland with the inspiration of Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji (Muli) Prakashbhai Patel etc. devotees, in Florida with the inspiration of Viveksagardasji, President Nalinbhai, Dilipbhai Shah, Manibhai Patel and many other devotees of Vadu, Karjisan, Dangarva, Mokhasan etc. places residing there also rendered their good services.

In New Jersey temple, in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, many young devotees rendered their services to collect the fund wherein services of Madhav Swami and President Bhaktibhai, Maneklalbhai and members of the Committee were praiseworthy. In Cherry Hill temple under the guidance of Shastri Vishwaprakashdasji, President Rajubhai, Ashokbhai and the devotees of Vadu, Dangarva, Karjisan and Mokhasan and members of the Committee collected huge fund in the pious temple of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the saints. In Boston, with the guidance of Shastri Siddheshwardasji, President Arvindbhai, R.K., Jyantibhai Vora Sir, Sanjaybhai Rasikbhai Patel, Chandreshbhai Patel, Dashrathbhai Patel and members of the Committee also collected the huge fund. In Colonia temple, President Shri Pravinbhai, Nayanbhai Parikh, Maheshbhai, Upenbhai etc. members of the Committee collected the fund. In Washington D.C. under the guidance of Shri Kanubhai Patel, a beautiful I.S.S.O. Mandal is being run wherein a beautiful programme of one day was organized and the huge fund was collected for Mahotsav wherein Shri Kanubhai, Rikin Thakkar, Munnabhai, Harikrishnabhai Shah etc. extended their good co-operation.

In Atlanta, Georgia Chapters, Bharatbhai, Rajendrabhai, Mahendrabhai, Atmarambhai Patel (Dangarva), Bharatbhai (Deusana), Navinbhai, Narottambhai, Ghanshyambhai, Sureshbhai (Mokhasan), Chanalalbhai (Dingucha) etc. devotees rendered their good services. In Los Angeles services of Devubhai, Premjibhai Hirani, Jayantibhai Patel, Bhaktibhai and Dashrathbhai Chaudhary were beautiful. Chimanbhai (Anandwala) of Birmingham rendered his beautiful services as the host of the 2nd day of Mahotsav and had availed the divine benefit. Thus each and every Haribhaktas o America and the saints residing in the temples there rendered their beautiful services fo this *Mahotsav*.

Among our temples in England Haribhaktas of Wilsdon temple rendered thei great services wherein devotee Shr Naranbhai Khetani family had availed the benefit of being the Chief Host of the *Mahotsav*. With the inspiration of forme Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Sadguru Swam Narayanswaroopdasji (Mahant, Allahabad devotees of Woolwich, Cardiff, East London Oldham, Hero, Bolton and Leicester, Gatwick Brighton and Straidham Chapters of I.S.S.O also rendered their services for this *Mahotsa* and obtained the pleasure of H.H. Shr Acharya Maharaj.

In Sydney (Australia) temple, with a telephonic call of Mahant Swami, devotee Shri Visrambhai Laljibhai Gopal Pindoria (Madhapar Kachchh, at present Perth) availed the benefit of being the Chief Host of *Shree Hari Yaag* during the *Mahotsav*. Devotees Shri Laxmanbhai Bhimji, Kanjibhai Premj Kesra and devotee Shri Karshanbha Raghvani of Raghvani family availed the benefit of being the Chief Host of *Chhappar Bhog* of Shree Narnarayandev and *Mahabhishek* during the *Mahotsav*.

During all the three days of Mahotsav spokespersons of morning and evening saints Shastri Swami Nirgundasji, Shastri P.P Swami (Jetalpur), Shastri Swam Golokviharidasji (Bhuj-Kachchh), Shastr Swami Shreejiprakashdasji and Sadgu Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji etc

learned saints narrated Katha of Shrimad Satsangibhusan with examples and all the devotees and Haribhaktas relished it very much. In the Sabha of the three days, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and also Vadtal Shree Laxminarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharaj granted Darshan to all the devotees. During all the three days of the Mahotsav, more than 700 saints from Bhuj, Muli, Vadtal, Gadhpur, Dholera and Junagadh had come and granted the devotees the benefit of their Darshan. Necessary expenses of travelling as well as clothing of all these saints were borne by the management of this Mahotsav.

In the Sabha of the ladies devotees in the presence of H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala, H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala, Shri Raja and Shri Mota Bahen, all the Sankhya-Yogi devotees and a large number of Karma-Yogi ladies devotees had availed the benefit of Mahotsav. Really the divine atmosphere of this Sabha of the ladies devotees was beyond any description.

During these three days of the Mahotsav, Speaker of the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly Shri Ashokbhai Bhatt, Head of the State Police force Shri Khandvawala and amongst the Honourable Ministers were Shri Jaynarayan Vyas, Shri Fakirbhai Vaghela, other Honourable Members of the Parliament, Leader of the opposition Shri Siddharth Patel, Shri Shaktisinh Gohil, Shri Himatsinh Patel, Shri Arjun Modhvadia etc. dignitaries also performed Darshan of this Mahotsav. The management of the Mahotsav honoured these dignitaries on this occasion.

On the concluding day of the Mahotsav, on 3rd June 2009 with the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, devotee and leading builder Shri Govindbhai C. Patel and his son devotee Shri Shekharbhai, who remained present in Mahotsav on all the three days, rendered great services by allowing the ground to be utilized free of cost for this Mahotsav. H.H. Shri Acharaya Maharaj honoured and blessed the devotees. Impressed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and Shri Mahant Swami, they also donated the piece of land admeasuring 2500 square meter from this ground for the purpose of construction of temple.

Special presence of Shri Narendrabhai Modi, the Honourable Chief Minister of the Gujarat State also remained present and honoured the occasion with his best wishes. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, saints and the Members of the Scheme Committee honoured him by offering the garlands. The Honourable Chief Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi offerd a shawl to the devotee builder Shri Govindbhai and hailed his services. Shri Nitinbhai Patel, the Honourable Minister of Urban Development also remained present on the occasion. In the Sabha Mahant of Ahmedabad temple, Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shstri Atmaprakashdasji, Mahant of Bhuj temple Purani Swami Dharmnandandasji and Kothari Bapu Swami of Vadtal etc. saints had delivered their inspirational speeches. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharaj of Vadtal and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj blessed the whole Sabha. From the beginning to the end of the Mahotsav, all the Sabhas were conducted beautifully by the young Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) and

thereby put forward the best example of its kind worthy to be emulated.

Prior to Mahotsav, on the pious occasion of Vijay-Stambha, in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, members of the devotee Shri K.K. Jesani (London) family had availed the divine benefit of performing poojan rituals.

On the 1st day of Mahotsav on 1st June 2009, in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, Pothi-Yatra was performed from the house of the devotee Shri Sanjaybhai Rasiklal Patel (America) the host of the Parayan with Dhoon-Kirtan and reached at the main entrance gate of Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav. There the host of the main gate devotee Shri Amarshibhai Lavjibhai, Vasudevbhai, Nanjibhai, Ranchhodbhai, Jayantibhai and Dharmeshbhai etc. families remained present and along with H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, laid open the entrance gate for Mahotsav. Thereafter, families of all the five devotees Members of the Scheme Committee of Ahmedabad temple and devotees Shri Rameshbhai and Shri Khimjibapa (Medawala) availed the benefit of performing aarti of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Thereafter H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj inaugurated the Exhibition on the Life of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj devotee Shri Harikrishnabhai Maganlal (Kadi) and Dave family had availed the benefit of inaugurating *Akhand Dhoon Mantra Jaap* by performing *aarti* along with H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Yagna was started by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and Katha Parayan was started by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj by performing *aarti Poojan*. The host devotee Shri Sanjaybhai Rasiklal Patel had availed the divine benefit of *Poojan* of *Vyas-Pith* and *aarti*.

This Mahotsav was celebrated with the great services rendered by the devotees of America, England, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Middle East and they deserve special mention in this regard. All the saints of Ahmedabad and Haribhaktas of 28 villages of Desh and saints and devotees of Muli Desh, saints of the temples with dome, saint and Haribhaktas of Bhuj (Kachchh) and Marvad Vali as also Mahant Swami of Vali Swami Hariprasaddasji etc. saints and Haribhaktas rendered their great services during this Mahotsav.

On the occasion of this Mahotsav all the dignitaries of the various fields of the society viz. political, religious, industrialists, educationists and other invited guests were invited and honoured. Devotees Shri Arvindbhai Thakkar, Shri Rameshbhai P. Patel (Jamiyatpurwala), Shri Surendrabhai Patel (Vishalawala), Shri Sharadbhai Govindbhai Patel, Bhupendrabhai P. Patel, Shri Vittalbhai Shivabhai Patel, Shri Vasudevbhai Lavjibhia patel, Shri Sankalchandbhai Chhaganlal Patel (Viharwala) and Shri naranbhai Ishwarbhai Patel closed their business for three days and rendered their services constantly for three days during this Mahotsav. Great are such devotees!

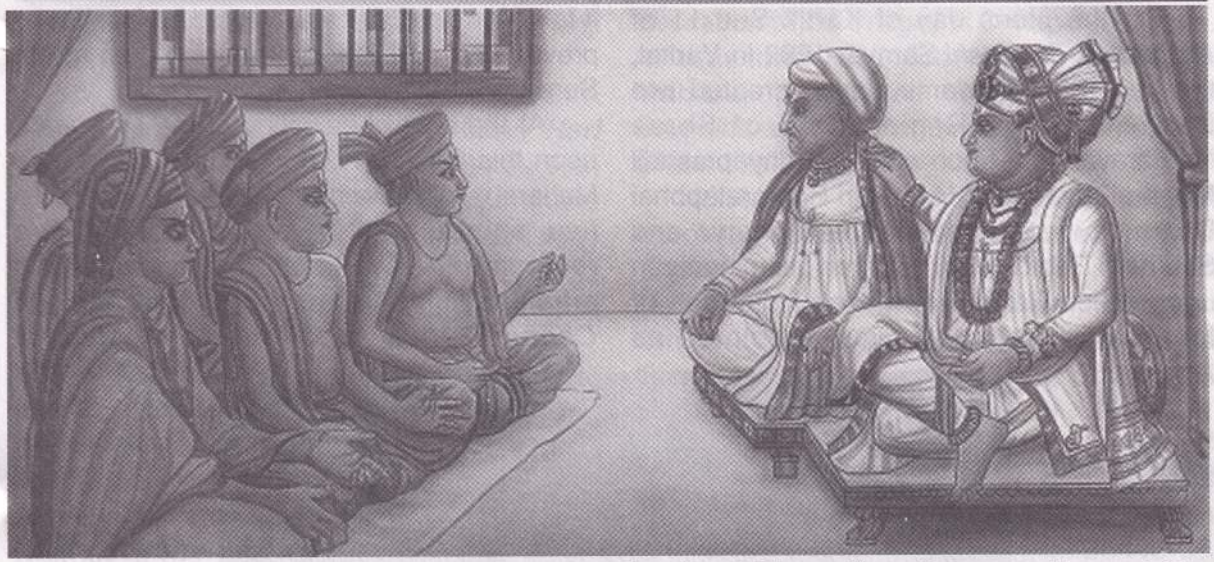
In the services of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and Dharmkul devotees Shri Dasbhai, Shri Arvindbhai Donga and other devotees of Bapunagar had rendered their great services. In the services of cleanliness, devotees Shri Zaverbhai and other devotees can never be forgotten. Furthermore devotees Shri Jagdishbhai Shah (Semitronic) and Prafulbhai Kharsani etc. also rendered their

various services. Courtesy services of CD of Ahmedabad Darshan were rendered by devotee Shri Karsandasji Jethidas Patel, CD of Avadh-Kirtanavali were rendered by Akshar Nivasi devotee Shri Shantilal Nanalal Darji through Rasilaben (Sadrawala), for publication of literature, services for publication of '*Vasudev Mahatmya*' were rendered by Dr. Manojbhai Brahmbhatt, Chicago Swaminarayan temple and I.S.S.O. U.K. President Jitubhai and K.K. Jesani whereas for its English translation services were rendered by devotee Shri Jethalal and G.S. Kumudben Bhogilal Patel etc. Haribhaktas with a view to give a momentum to the publication of the literature of *Sampradaya*.

All the devotees of our Shree Narnarayandev Scheme Committee, Shri Ratibhai, Shri Dashrathbhai, Shri Ramanbhai, Shri G.K.Patel, Shri Dr. K.K. Patel, and Karbhari Shri Manishbhai Vora, Hajur Karbhari Sandipbhai Vora, Office Staff, all the members of *Galla-Peti,* devotee Shri Pravinbhai Patel of Shraddha Cassette and in Legal Committee Shri T.K. Zlavadia, and Shri Narsinhbhai Nasit and many other known-unknown Haribhaktas, whose services cannot be forgotten. Amongst the saints services of Nana P.P. Swami (Koteshwar), Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji Guru Swami Harijivandasji, Shastri Hariswaroopdasji, Shsatri Vishwaswaroopdasji, Mahant Swami Dharmswaroopdasji (Nathdwara), Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji, Kothari Jaykrishnadasji, Bhakti Swami, Shastri Chhapaiyaprasaddasji, Idar Mahant Jagdishprasaddasji, Laloda Mahant Shastri Swami Ghanshyamjivandasji, Jetalpur Mahant Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji, Shastri P.P. Swami, Mahant Shastri Harijivandasji (Himatnagar), Naranpura Mahant Shastri Shreejiprakashdasji, Siddhpur Mahant Shastri Swami Premswaroopdasji, Swami Swayamprakashdasji of Jaidevpura, Shastri Anand Swami, Shastri Chandraprakashdasji of Biliya, Kankaria Mahant Shastri Swami Guruprasaddasji, Mathura Mahant Anand Swami, Dholka Mahant Shastri Swami Poornaprakashdasji, Swami Krishnavallabhdasji of Muli, Swami Jagatprakashdasji, Sapawada Mahant Shastri Nandkishordasji, Unava Mahant Balu Swami and Shri Dhyani Swami Hariswaroopdasji, who rendered great services during the Mahotsav, and many other known-unknown saints rendered their great services by taking pains. Bhandari Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Swami Haricharandasji, Kothari Bhakti Swami, J.K. Swami, Dharmjivan Swami (Kathakar), Baldev Swami (Dholera), Kothari *Parshad* Digambar Bhagat and Nilesh Bhagat etc. saints and Parshads rendered their great services day and night in the Kitchen of Ahmedabad temple and obtained the pleasure of all. If any name is forgotten to be referred hereinabove, the same may be pardoned. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the pleasure of the whole Dharmkul, this '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' could be celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor. It is an humble prayer at the lotus like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev that, again in future all of us get together on another such *Maha-Mahotsav* of inauguration of '*Shree Swaminarayan Museum*' on Falgun Sud-3, 8th March 2011 and celebrate it with the co-operation of all.

I AM WITH YOU

- Shstri Nirgundasji



It is quite well-known all over the world that, this human soul may commit a mistake in demanding anything from the Lord but the Almighty Lord never commits mistake in granting whatever is demanded. In fact the Lord grants much more than what is demanded. And the Lord is very much happy to grant it. This is a divine incident of the life of Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

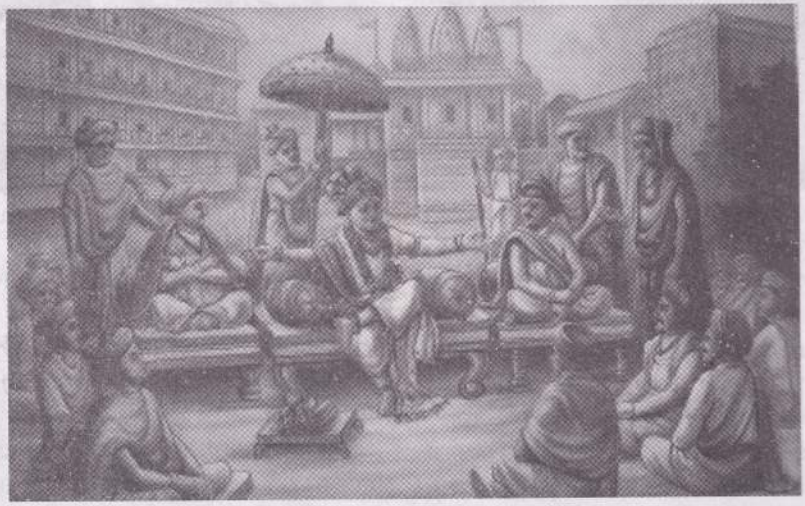
The Lord Shree Swaminarayan, the founder and propagator of Uddhav Sampradaya- popularly known as '*Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya*' established two Gadis with a view that the activity of granting Moksha may continue incessantly and perennially. In the Gadi of North Desh Shree Narnarayandev Desh, the Lord established Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj as Acharya on this Narnarayandev Desh Pith. When Aadi Acharya observed the boundaries of Shree Narnarayandev Desh, he observed that, the whole region was very dry (as per the conditions prevailing at that time). At that time, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan blessed him saying that "***I shall always be with you***." The proof of this many great festivals which are being celebrated in this North Desh viz. *Dwi-Shatabdi, Shatamrit Mahotsav, Rajat Jayanti, Shashti Purti* and *Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav.*

In spite of inflation, recession and rising prices prevailing in the society, 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor in a grand manner. There was no deficiency of any kind during this Mahotsav. Everyone rendered services as per his capacity and everyone experiences the presence of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj. Many devotees attending the Mahotsav from abroad could get all types of facilities. There were uniform arrangements during the Mahotsav. There was no any complaint and everyone was relishing the festival joyously. When the Lord Shreeji Maharaj Himself is present, can there be anything insufficient ?

Deeds of the Almighty Supreme are also Supreme

- P.P. Swami (Jetalpurdham)

On the pious day of Kartik Sud-11 of *Prabodhini Ekadashi* Samvat 1882 in Vadtal, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan created two Desh- Northern Region Gadi of Shree Narnarayandev –upon which Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj- the son of H.H. Shri Rampratapbhai Dharmdev was appointed as Acharya and Southern Region Gadi of Shree Laxminarayan upon which Raghuvirji Maharaj- the son of Ichharam Dharmdev- was appointed as Acharya.

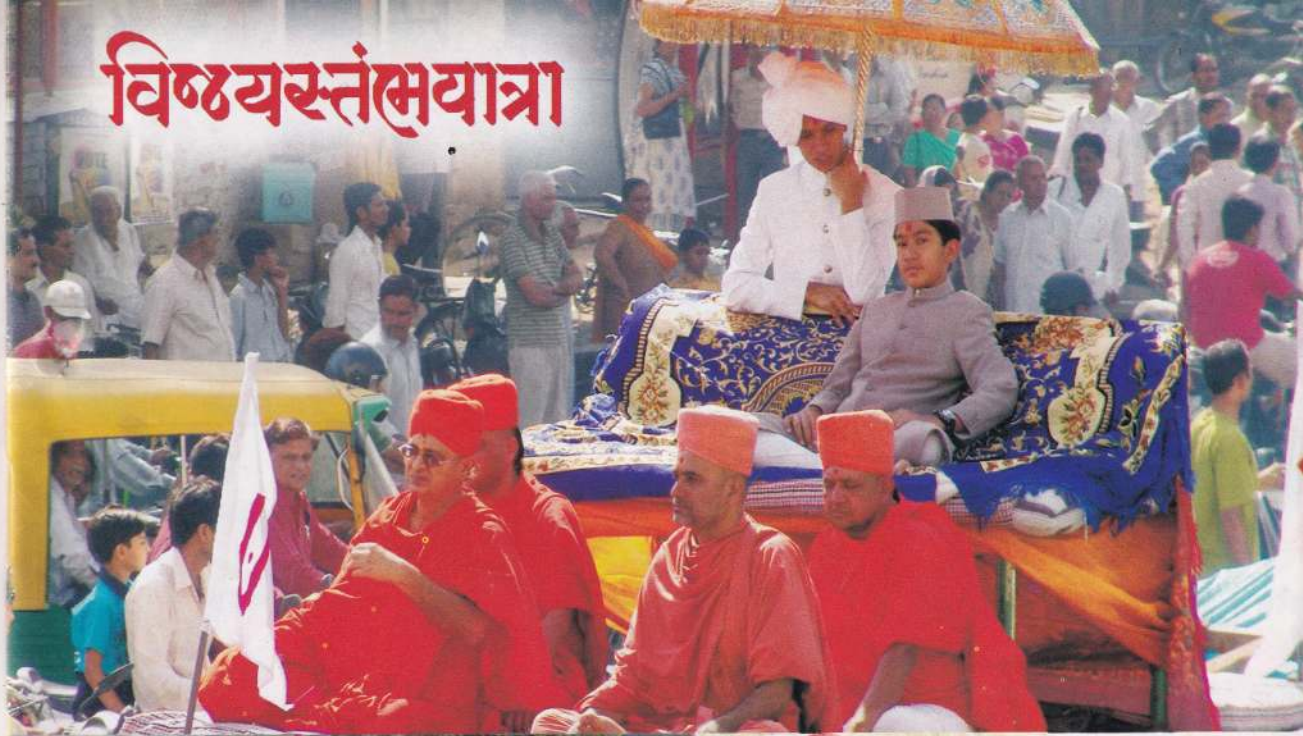


The Supreme Lord and *Purna-Purushottam* Shree Swaminarayan got *Uddhav Sampradaya* established through Ramanand Swami and the responsibility of its unique and perennial heritage was kept with himself. Though the Lord had with Him, five hundred Paramhamsa, learned devotees and poets, Dhyani and saints and yet with a noble aim to keep this Sampradaya perennial for ages, the Lord cherished an idea on the pious day of Kartik Sud-11 Samvant 1882. From the worldly point of view, this idea appears very '*Common*' and from the spiritual point of view it appears '*Divine*'. This was a *Satya Sanatan Vision* of *Parabrahma Parmatma*. And no in this whole *Brahmand* (Universe) has the capacity to turn it false; any such attempt would be just like to prevent the sun-light by throwing dust at the Sun.

At the time of selection of the successor upon this Gadi, if H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj would have been a mature person then five saints and devotees would have recommended his name in view of his efficiency. But here *Vachan* of *Chaturdhamukti* and granter of *Atyantik Moksha* the Lord Shree Swaminarayan were sufficient. No any *Japa, Tapa, Vrata* etc. is competent like *Vachan* of the Lord. Devotees were obedient to the directions of the Lord in all the three states of mind. Such type of devotees are there even today in our *Sampradaya*.

One may not believe it rationally, but it is true that when Shree Hari appointed His successor on the Gadi of Sampradaya, then age of Shree Raghuvirji Maharaj was on 13 years and the age of Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was 16 years. There were other elder sons of Rampratapji and Ichharambhai. Even then both these sons were adopted and established them on both the Gadi of Sampradaya. After performing *Gadi-Abhishek*,

विश्वस्तंभयात्रा













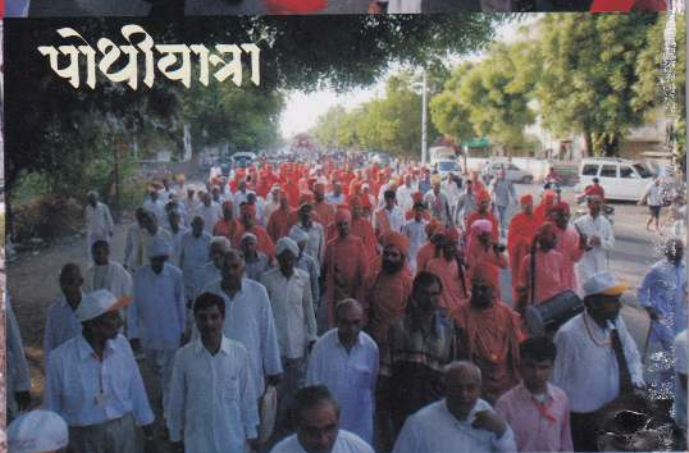








पोथीयात्रा







Shree Hari himself performed *poojan-aarti*.

After making appointment of Shri Ayodhprasadji Maharaj on the *Gadi* of the *Sampradaya* at a very tender age and five hundred *Paramhama* and *Bramchari Varni Pala* and *Haribhaktas* hailed the appointment with *poojan* and pleasure. None of them hesitated even for a while because all of them had come from Akshardham and they know the capacity and powers of the Lord. Moreover, it was the place of the Almighty and it was the function of Shree Hari to fulfill the desire of all the devotees. Even in the present time, Shree Hari sends *Acharya* from *Akshardham* only because no any common can sit upon this *Gadi* of the Almighty. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was omniscient and many such incidents are narrated by the saints.

Once Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj graced Muli to perform *Samaiya* of *Vasant Panchmi*. A large number of devotees attended the *Samaiya*. Devotee Shri Ramji Sheth of Memka came to the residence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Dandvat Pranam* and stated that devotee Hathibhai Sheth was organizing a big fair in Ahmedabad. The Sangh of Wadhvan was going to attend the fair and the people of the Sangh had also invited him to join them. So he asked for the permission. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj closed the eyes for some time and then asked the devotee not to attend the fair. When the devotee said that, in fact he had no any special affection towards the fair but with that excuse he wanted to perform Darshan of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. But then Maharaj informed him that, during the fair a great epidemic called 'Tuntia' was to be spread which would kill thousand of people and therefore he should not visit the fait. The devotee was obedient and ardent worshipper of Acharya Maharaj and therefore he did not attend the fair. Ramji Sheth heard the news that during the fair, the epidemic called 'Tuntia' attacked and killed large number of people. Now his faith in Maharaj became firm as he realized that Maharaj had saved his life.

On another occasion devotee Shri Ramji Sheth came to Ahmedabad to perform *Darshan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. Ramji Sheth informed Maharaj that the Minister of the king of Wadhwan was very much jealous of Maharaj and punishes the *Satsangis* without any offence and honours those who speak ill about *Satsang*. Then Maharaj said that in a very short time, the minister would experience the miracle of Maharaj. When Ramji Sheth asked what would be the miracle then Maharaj said that, the minister would be dethroned from his seat by the king for fifteen days. Furthermore he would be seriously ill and no one would be willing to serve him.

Ramji Sheth returned Memka and reported this to the devotees of the village. And after fifteen days this *Vachan* of Maharaj turned out to be true. People of the village talked that since the minister dishonoured the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and *Satsangi*, he had to pay for it. Once during *Samaiya* of *Vasant Panchmi* in Muli, the devotee Shri Ramji Sheth met H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasad. When asked Maharaj said that he was both happy as well as unhappy. When Ramji Sheth asked for the clarification, Maharaj said that he would come to know about it at night. At night on the day of *Vasant Panchmi*, H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj got sickness. Maharaj informed that, this sickness was coming even before *Vasant Panchmi* but He had prevented it in order to grant happiness to the devotees and on completion of *Samaiya* he got the sickness. Then the devotees of Muli Desh started talking that Son of the Lord is also like the Lord.

Perseverance of Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav and Services of Mind, Body and Money

- Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji (Vadnagar)



The month of June has knocked at our door; yet the effect of the month of May is still there upon the daily schedule of the human life. But ignoring this effect, early in the morning on 1st June 2009, under the chairmanship of Shree Narnarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, with the blessing of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj and with the well-wishes of our future Acharya H.H. 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj and with the great perseverance of Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Saduguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and other saints and Mahants and devotees, celebration of the great festival of '***Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav***' was started at pious place of Ahmedabad on the occasion of 200th Janma-Jayanti Mahotsav of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj of Shree Narnarayandev Gadi established by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

This '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' has introduced *Dharmvanshi Acharya* to each and every *Satsangi* and devotee.

Perseverance of Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav : It is rightly stated in the scriptures that, without perseverance no work big or small can be accomplished. Yes, if there are sincere human efforts involved in it, then the blessings of the Almighty Lord certainly join it. Such an experience was there during this '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*'. The seventh successor of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and Mahant of Ahmedabad temple learned saint Sadguru

Shastri Harikrishnadasji, Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji, Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadugu Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji went to the pilgrimage of America for propagation and propaganda of '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' then devotees residing there took up the task and render the services of Daivi Laxmi at the lotus like feet of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj for celebration of Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav of Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. Presidents and trustees of all the temples of America actively participated in it. Furthermore our saints Saduguru J.P. Swami and Hariprasad Swami (Chicago), Sadguru Shastri Swami Vishwaprakasdasji (Cherry Hill), Sadguru Shastri Siddheshwardasji (Boston), Sadguru Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji (Cleve Land), Sadguru Shastri Brahmswaroopdasji (Detroit), Sadguru Swami Viveksagardasji (Florida), Sadguru Shastri Gyanprakashdasji (Adison), Sadguru K.P. Swami (Hyustan), Sadguru Shastri Swami Madhavdasji (New Jersey) etc. saints, who render their services in the temples of America, inspired the devotees residing there to render their services to celebrate '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' in a grand style. Not only this many youngsters who were made Satsangis by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, offered their whole salary for this Mahotsav. Many Indian devotees now residing in America such as the devotees of Dangarva, Mokhasan, Karjisan, VAdu, RAjpur, Kotha, Jorang, Ahmedabd, Kalol, Deusana, kadi, Ananpura, Sankapura, Nardipur, Bakrol, Miroli, Gamdi and many other devotees of Kachchh and Halar region of Gujarat also rendered their services for this *Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav* of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

Besides this thousands of other devotees residing in England, Africa, Sweden, Canada, Australia, Cecils, New Zealand rendered their services for this *Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*. Many of them also attended this Mahotsav and availed the rare benefit and obtained the pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and other saints and Mahants.

Pious place (Ganesh Housing) of Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav :

It was a big question to obtain such a huge plot of land in Ahmedabad to celebrate '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*'. But with the blessings of the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the perseverance of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple, this big question was solved in a wink of an eye. Devotee Shri Govindbhai C. Patel (Ganesh Housing Pvt. Ltd.) the devotee of the Lord Shree Hari grabbed the opportunity to render his services by allowing his huge plot of land situated near Thaltej cross road on Sarkhej-Gandhinagar Highway. Thereafter, on the pious day of *Vaisakh Sud*-3 (*Akha-Trij*) Vijaya-Stambha was installed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in the presence of thousands of saints and the devotees. From that pious day onwards, Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra started echoing on this pious land till 3rd June 2009.

Wonderful Service of literature on life of Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj: With a view that, in view of this

Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav each and every devotee of our *Sampradaya* may have a glance at and they may be acquainted with the life of our Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, services of literature viz. '*Kirtanavali*' created by Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj', a book on the Life of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj', a picture-book on the main incidents of life of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and other audio, video cassettes as well as D.V.D. were published by Kalupur temple with the co-operation of the saints and *Haribhaktas*. Thereby this divine and unique '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' would remain in the memory of all the devotees permanently. For this work, with the inspiration of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and under the guidance of Mahant Swami Shastri Harikrishnadasji, Poojari of Shree Narnarayandev Sadguru Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Sadguru Shastri Swami Nirgundasji and Mahant of Narayanghat temple Saguru Swami Devprakashdasji took great pains to place these publications before the devotees.

Among other services Mahant of Jetalpur Sadguru Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji, Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji (Vadnagar), Sadguru Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji, Sadguru Shastri P.P. Swami (Jetalpur), Sadguru P.P. Swami (Koteshwar),. Sadguru Shastgri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar), Sadguru Mahant Swami Krishnavallabhdasji (Surendranagar), Sadguru Swami Rajendraprasaddasji, Sadguru Mahant swami Dharmswaroopdasji (Nathdwara), Sadguru J.K. Swami Kothari, Sadguru Shastri Swami Premswaroopdasji (Kalol), Sadguru Shastri Swami Akhileshwardasji, Sadguru Yogi Swami, Parshad Digambar Bhagat, Sadguru Bhakti Swami, Sadguru Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Sadguru Swami Jagdishprasaddasji (Idar), Sadguru Shastri Swami Harijivandasji (Himatnagar), Nandkishordasji (Sapawada), Sadguru Swami Hariswaroopdasji (Panchmahals), Sadguru Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji (Kankaria) and many other saints rendered their great services during this Mahotsav and obtained the pleasure of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

In the background preparations of this Mahotsav devotee Shri Pravinbhai Nasit, devotee shri Ishwarbhai Gangarambhai, Devotee Shri Jayraimbhai Kanani, devotee Shri Manojbhai Amratbhai and devotee Shri Ratibhai Devpurwala, devotee Shri Amitbhai Dasrathbhai Patel, devotee ShriUdayanbhai Maharaj, devotee Shri Sharadbhai Godindbhai Patel, devotee Shri Bharat Thakkar, devotee Shri Prvinbhai Patel (Shraddha Cassette Co.), devotee Shri Dharmendrabhai etc. *Haribhaktas* rendered their services to make this Mahotsav a grand success.

At last in order to make this 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' a grand success, with the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, all the members of the Scheme Committee and many other saints-Mahants and devotees actively rendered their services. This 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' would therefore would remain in the memory of all the saints and devotees permanently. This is not a Mahotsav to be written or reported but it is to have Darshan and render our services for it.

DHARMKUL VANDANA MAHOTSAV- ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sadhu Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar)

We all celebrated Dwi-Shatabdi Janma-Mahotsav of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj as 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' with enthusiasm and fervor. This three-day festival is over but then what are its achievements?

The most authentic scripture of *Hindu Sanatan Samskruti* is '*Shrimad Bhagwad Gita*'. If we think about the creation of this great scripture then we find that on the battle-field of Kurukshetra, the armies of the Pandavas and Kauravas had come in front of each other and count down of the World War of the Ancient Time had started. At that time Arjuna requested the Lord Shree Krishna to bring his chariot in the middle of the battle field. Then he looked at the armies of both the sides. On the side of Kauravas there were Gurudev Dronacharya, Pitamah Bhishm and Kulguru Kripacharya and he dropped the weapons from his hand. He was greatly perturbed, a desolate soul, Arjun humbly refused to fight out the battle. He requested the Lord Krishna, "I cannot fight in this battle. I cannot kill my kith and kins for a piece of land, however the big it may be. I cannot commit such a heinous sin."

When Arjun refused to take the arms, the Lord Shree Krishna preached him the Message of Gita and thereafter prepared him for the battle on the line of '*Karishye Vachanam Tavam*!' History has not forgotten this battle. The roots of this great Indian battle lies in the Message of Gita. If the Almighty Lord would not have preached '*Bhagwad Gita*' then perhaps history would have been quite different.

If we look at this matter from a different angle then 'Gita' was over and the battle began. In one sense the result of '*Gita*' is the '*Battle of Mahabharat*'. Even today many people all over the world believe that if the Lord Shree Krishn would not have preached 'Gita' then this battl would not have occurred. Arjun was not at a ready to fight the battle, it was the Lord Shre Krishna who inspired Arjun for it. To som extent this is also true . But in fact by inspirin Arjun for the outward battle, the Lord has save from his inner battle. The Lord has relieve Arjun from the inner battle of Dualism viz Violence vs. Non-violence, Sin Vs. Nobl Deeds, Life Vs. Death, Action Vs. Result. Fro the worldly point of view the moment Gita over the battle is started but in fact with thi Gita the battle which was going in the min and heart of Arjun is over. Therefore in thi way the result of 'Gita' is not the battle but th end of our beliefs and presumptions an assumptions.

The end of our assumptions an presumptions and like Arjun beginning '*Karishye Vachanam Tavam*' and this is th result and achievement of this *Utsav*. Aft celebration of this *Utsav*, our mind should b replete with the Almighty Lord and this is th real achievement of this *Utsav*. Brahmanan Swami says,

"મન ગમતું સર્વે મેલીને એક તમને રીજાવા રે,
બ્રહ્માનંદ કહે મન કર્મ વચને ગુણ તમારા ગાવા રે."

Accordingly we should live our life as pe the directions of the Almighty Lord and not a per wish. If we can get rid of our evils the only it is real achievement of festival. Th festival has not completed on 3rd June 200 on the pious day of *Bhim-Ekadashi*. In fact w have to start *Utsav* of our life from that da We have got the Almighty Lord, *Dev, Achary* Saints and *Satsangis*. If we live our life keepin these things in our mind then only it can b said to be true celebration of *Utsav*.

ધર્મકુળ વંદના મહોત્સવ

Complete Report of Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)



રંગ ઉત્સવ સમૈયા કરીને ગઢડું ઘેલું કીધું રે : This line written by Nand Saint says that Shree Hari organized a number of *Rangotsav* and *Utsav* in Gadhpur which were celebrated by the people of Gadhpur with no bound of pleasure. A break in Utsv cannot be afforded. This was a talk about Shreeji Maharaj; Gadhpur was a special place of Shreeji Maharaj and therefore the people of Gadhpur had the benefit of divine pleasure of celebration of such *Utsav* and *Samaiya*.

Following the same tradition, all Acharyas of Shree Narnarayandev Pith Sthan established by Shree Hari, stay in Ahmedabad and perform *Vicharan*. But on accomplishment of for *Satsang*, they return to this Srinagar. And therefore it can be written :

રંગ ઉત્સવ સમૈયા કરીને શ્રીનગર ઘેલું કીધું રે : Because how many Mahotsavs we celebrated after Dwi-Shatabdi Maha-Mahotsav of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. Rajat, Suvarna Jayanti, Shree Narnarayandev Shatamrut Mahotsav, Shasti-Purti Mahotsav, Gadi Abhishek Mahotsav of 7th Acharya of Shree Narnarayandev Desh have a permanent bearing in our memory. We can never forget them. Patotsav, Rangotsav and Pragatyotsav keep on incessantly because there are innumerable temples. Moreover, there are Three Other Forms of Shree Hari and therefore we get three-fold benefits. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has retired from the pious and divine seat of Acharya of Shree Narnarayandev Desh Gadi. In Sabha he requests us to allow him to retire from all other activities except that of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. It appears, his love and affection towards Shree Hari and the Lord Shree

Narnarayandev would never allow him to relieve or retire from this '*Sagar of Satsang*'!

With the pleasure of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, under the Chairmanship of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and pleasure of our future Acharya H.H. 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj and in the pious presence of Shri Laxminarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharaj, this Maha Mahotsav was organized from 01/06/2009 to 03/06/2009 on the ground of Ganesh Housing Corporation in Thaltej area in the presence of all the learned saints of Sampradaya, Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees and thousands of devotees.



Dwi-Shatabdi Mahotsav of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj turned out to be an innovative and very important *Mahotsav* of original *Sampradaya*. We celebrated festivals having their roots and causes associated with Shreeji Maharaj, Shri Narnarayandev and present H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. But through this unique *Mahotsav* we granted to this world *Darshan* of the roots of our tradition of *Dharmvanshi Acharya*. Many people say that this Sampradaya is divided into two sects. But devotees! This is not true. Just as an owner of a shop of reputation display the board that they do not have any branch and yet any one who tries to copy it will have to repent for his misdeed. Here also those who try to copy the original Sampradaya, will have to repent at last.

There are two roots of Dharmvanshi Acharya Tradition established by our Lord Shree Swaminarayan. One is Ahmedabad Gadi (Shree Narnarayandev Desh) and the other is Vadtal Gadi (Shree Laxminarayandev Desh). Shree Hari has installed these two roots very deep. They are two roots of one big shady tree and no one can shake it even an inch. This is original Sampradaya with the tradition. Birds are found chirping on the branches of this big shady tree. Dear devotees, there are some other persons who create this type of illusion outside our Sampradaya. Just ask them about the root of their so called Sampradaya and you will get the truth of their illusion.

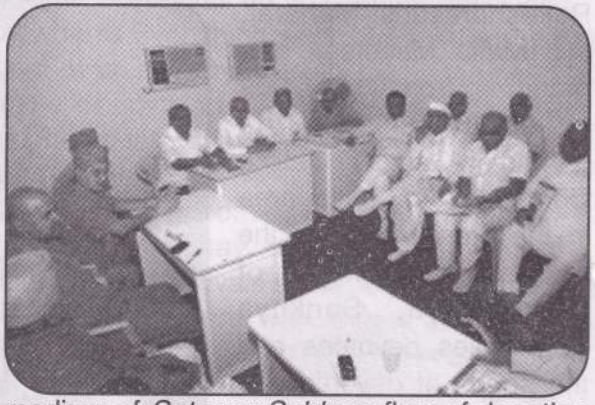
This time, Kalupur temple showed the root of this Sampradaya to all the devotees of *Desh* and *Videsh*. There was a unique style and impact during this *Utsav*. Shree Hari himself has established Acharya on Gadi of Satsang and has handed over the reins of Sampradaya. This tradition will continue till the end of the Earth. Small plants get uprooted in a heavy storm but the same storm cannot do anything to a shady tree with its deep roots and strong branches.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj gave directions to celebrate this *Utsav*. With the

blessings of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev and Shreeji Maharaj, saints and Haribhakta of Ahmedabad Desh got stand by. With the inspiration of Mahant Swami Shastri Harikrishnadas and member of Scheme Committee devotee Shri Ratibhai Patel, huge ground of Ganesh Housing Corporation was given for this *Utsav*. On 27/04/2009 *Vijaya-Stambha* was installed with great enthusiasm. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed that, this *Utsav* would be celebrated without any obstacle and with great fervour. There were also directions of Maharaj that, through this festival all the human beings are to be introduced original principles established by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and everything happened accordingly.

After installation of *Vijaya-Stambha*, Mahant Swami of Kalupur Temple, other leading saints and *Haribhaktas*, members of the Scheme Committee etc. started planning for *Utsav*. From 21/05/2009, kitchen was started for *Swayamsevaks*. And some of the devotees started rendering their whole time services and some other part time. There was only one goal i.e. to obtain pleasure of Shreeji Maharaj and Dharmkul by rendering services on the occasion of 200th Janma-Jayanti of our Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. All the devotees started rendering services with their mind, body and money. For the succession of Mahotsav, there was held religious Vicharan of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and other saints in foreign as well as villages of Ahmedabad Desh. Invitation was sent to all the temples, saints and devotees abroad as well as in Desh. Invitation was also included in May-2009 issue of our '*Shree Swaminarayan*' Magazine. Decorative curved and carved hoarding were also erected on the main roads in various cities of Ahmedabad Desh displaying celebration of this *Utsav*. Through vehicle stickers, calendars, banners and also through public advertisement in leading newspapers, all were invited to celebrate this *Mahotsav*.

Through H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, inspiration of the saints and also through the

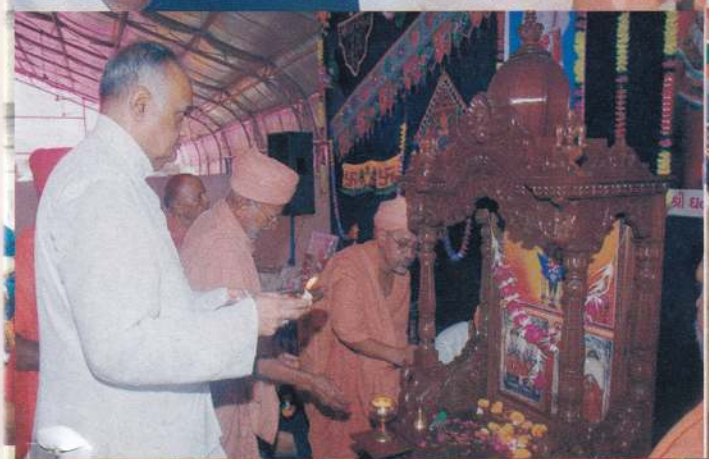


medium of *Satsang Sabha* a flow of donation started and continued till the end of Mahotsav. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj constituted an Executive Committee of 36 main and 64 other efficient and well experienced saints and devotees and duties and responsibilities were distributed evenly among them. A sub-committee of 5 to 7 members was constituted and a list of 1000 *Swayamsevaks* was prepared and under each sub-committee.

Under direct supervision of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, Mahant of Kalupur temple Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji Swami, Devkrishna Swami, Brahmchari Shri Rajeshwaranandji Swami, Shastri Shri Nirgundasji, Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji, Jetalpur, Sadguru Shastri Swami Narayanvallbhdasji, Vadnagar, Swami Krishnavallabhdasji, Surendranagar,

उद्घाटन



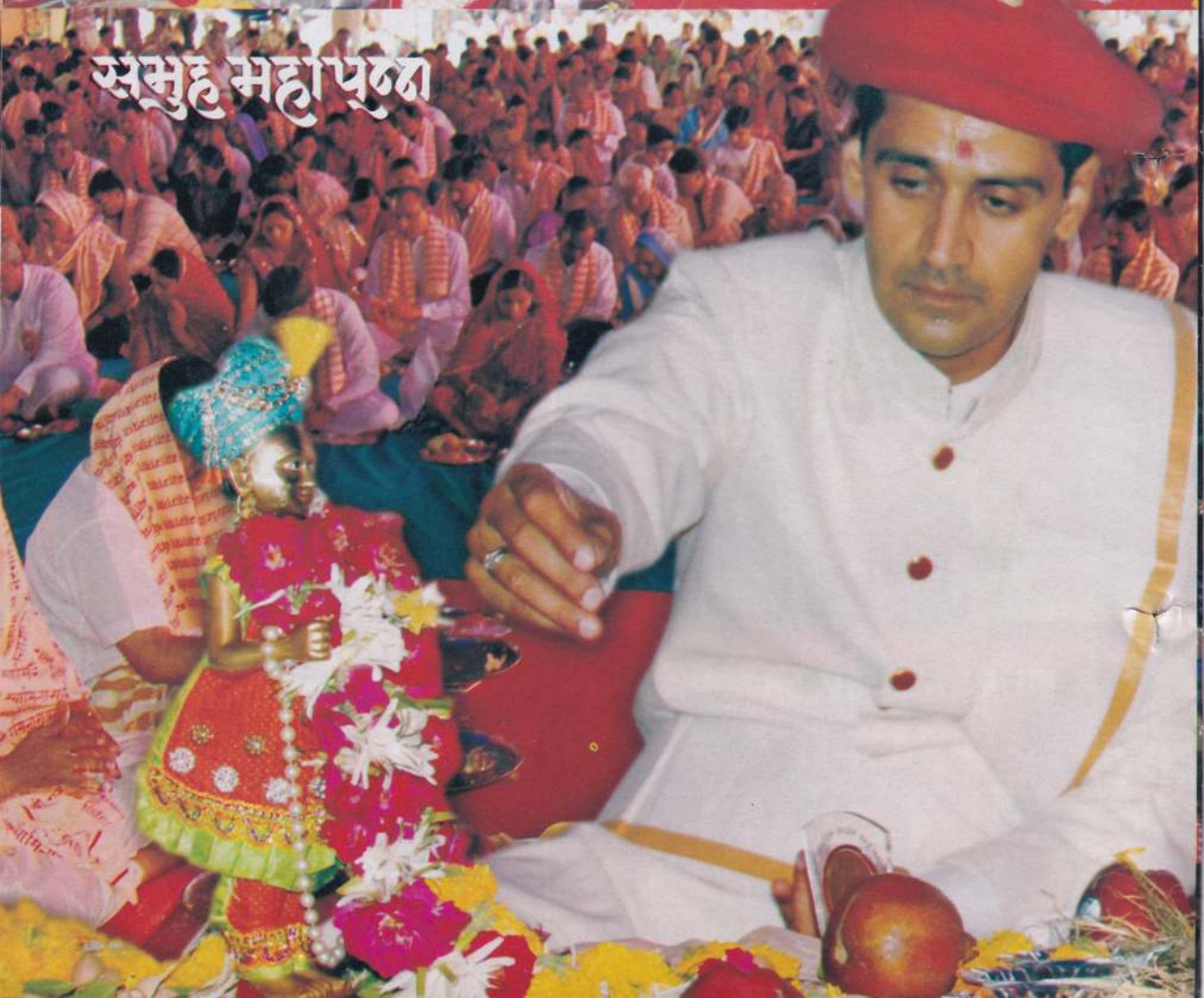











सामुह महापुजा

महाविष्णुयाग यज्ञ



















પ્રદર્શન





નારાયણ સરોવરની પ્રતિકૃતિ



સાહિત્ય કેન્દ્ર



હરિભક્તોની ભીડ



શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ માસિક કાર્યાલય





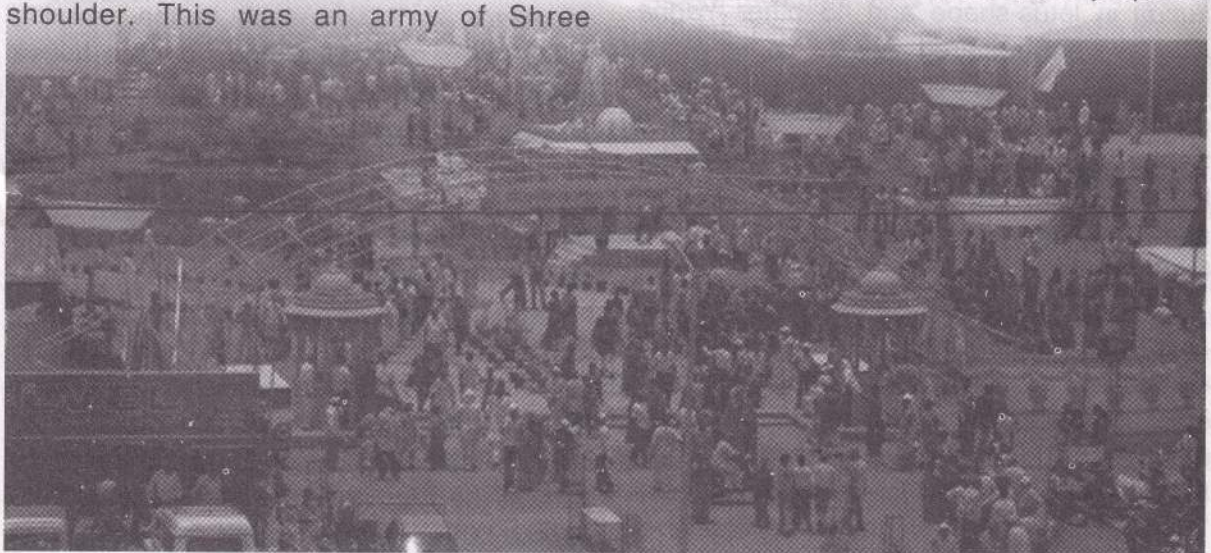


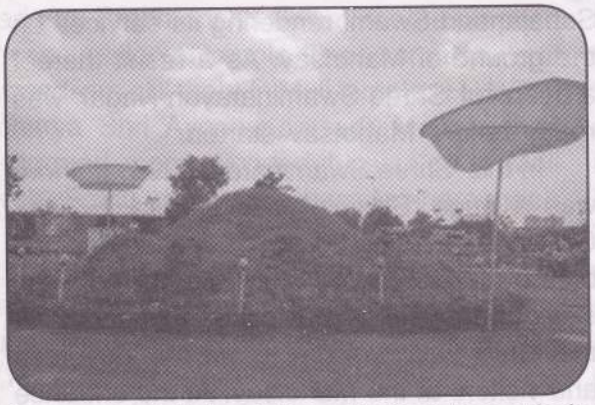
Nana P.P. Swami and Shastri Ramkrishnadasji, and Members of Trustee Board of Ahmedabad temple and as per the plan of devotee architect Shri Pravinbhai V. Nasit, a large number devotees-Swayamsevaks and ladies devotees from Naranpura, Narayanghat, Bapunagar, Vadaj, Ranip, Ghatlodiya, Jivrajpark, Bopal and many other areas of Ahmedabad came in small and big vehicles and started rendering their services to prepare *Yagna-Kunda*, to level the surface of the ground, to clean the grains etc.

For the success of this Mahotsav, a large number of devotees performed Mala of Shree Swaminarayan, Pradakshina of Shree Hari, Path of Janmangal and Bal Charitra, Pada of Vandu and Kirtan, Satsang Sabha and also availed the benefit of grace of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and other saints at their home.

On 29/04/2009 all the Swayamsevaks came on the ground and started rendering their services in uniform and cap of Mahotsav on their heads and an identity card on their shoulder. This was an army of Shree Sahajanand Swami rendering its services on the ground of Mahotsav. As a result thereof a beautiful 'Shree Swaminarayan Nagar' was ready before Mahotsav started.

In this 'Shree Swaminarayan Nagar' there was a huge 'Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Dwar' Gate admeasuring 60 * 30 feet accompanied by the marble carved umbrellas on both the sides of the gate. A Musical Band standing at the Gate was welcoming all the devotees and visitors at the Mahotsav. At the entrance of the premises, Shree Narnarayandev temple was constructed with flooring and the Lord Shree Narnarayandev was granting Darshan to all the devotees. There was created a beautiful lake in a circular shape admeasuring 200 feet whereupon a bridge admeasuring 20 * 15 feet was prepared and artificial swans and turtles were made floating in the lake surrounded by little greenery creating an impression of a real lake. Three small hills around the lake were also created whereupon grass and other plants were developed and among this real greenery there were artificial deer. Beside the hills there were prepared





two water-fall-fountains. During the whole Mahotsav, water was continuously being sprinkled upon the ground, which kept the temperature of the premises quite cool even during the hot summer.

To the right side of the temple was created an exhibition of life of Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. The exhibition was decorated with colourful Rangoli, plants and pictures and sayings relating to the life of Aadi Acharya. To the left side of the temple, beautiful *Yagna-Shala* was prepared upon the space admeasuring 162 * 108 feet wherein one main *Yagna-kunda* in lotus-shape and 45 other *Yagna-Kundas* were prepared. Beside *Yagna-Shala*, there was created Akhanda Dhoon Mandap on the space admeasuring 10 * 30 feet. In Sabha Mandap, the idols of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj of Rang Mahol, Shri Narnarayandev and Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj were installed.

In the centre of '*Shree Swaminarayan Nagar*', there was kept 48th *Vachanamrit* of Gadadha First Chapter in big letters on a huge hoarding admeasuring 30 * 10 feet along with idol images of *Prasadi* of Shree Narnarayandev with Naradji and Uddhavji. This *Vachanamrit* is worthy to be cherished by all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

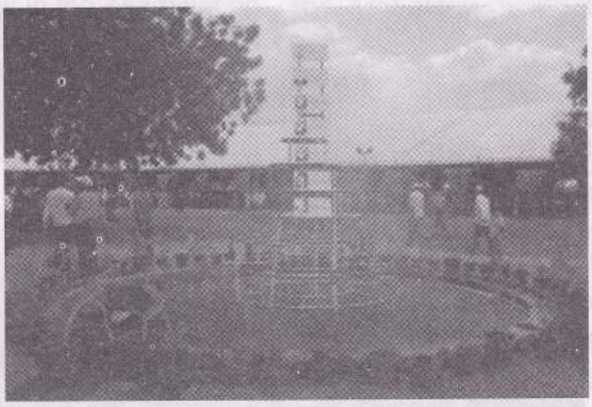
Centre of attraction of all the devotees was *Sabha Mandap*. It was German made Sabha Mandap admeasuring 450 * 131 feet with 35 feet height. Its finishing and cloth were of the type which kept the temperature 4 degree less than the temperature outside the *Sabha Mandap*. In the whole *Sabha Mandap* as well as in *Dhoon Mandap*, a light sprinkling of water was special attraction for all the devotees. In the background of the Stage of the *Sabha Mandap* there were idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of Ahmedabad temple. There were Shri Rampratapji Bhojanalaya, Shri Bhaktimata Bhojanalaya, Suvasini Bhojanalaya etc. five huge Bhojan-Khanda in the name of Dharmkul making nice arrangement for meals of the saints, dignitaries, devotees and visitors. A huge kitchen admeasuring 200 * 100 feet was also made and there was also a huge *Mandap* for the devotees and visitors meant for their rest.

At last the day of 1st June 2009 came. There was no bound to the pleasure of the devotees. At 7.00 o'clock in the morning Pothi-Yatras was performed from the house Madar Bungalows of Thaltej of the devotee Shri Rasiklal Ambalal Patel, the chief host of Parayan. In the first horse-cart, saints and spokesperson of Shrimad Satsangibhusan Parayan were granting Darshan; in the second horse-cart, ladies-devotees of the host family were sitting holding *Pothi*. They were led and followed by the Musical band and the devotees performing *Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon*. At 7.30 hours, *Pothi-Yatra* reached at the entrance gate of the *Mahotsav*. At the entrance gate all the Three Other Forms of Shree Hari

performed *Poojan* of Shri Harikrishna Maharaj and thereafter our future Acharya H.H. 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj inaugurated the main entrance gate of the Mahotsav along with His grandfather and other saints and devotees.

Thereafter all the Three Other Forms of Shree Hari performed *Poojan* of Shri Narnarayandev along with the saints and the devotees and laid open the temple for *Darshan* for the devotees.

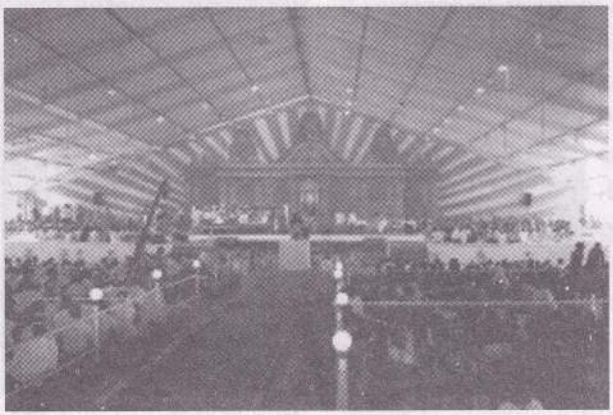
At 8.30 hours in the morning, all the three Other Forms of Shree Hari graced three different sections of Mahotsav. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj inaugurated Shri Hari Yaag in Yagna-Shala. Complete rituals of Hari Yaag was performed in Vedic tradition by Ved Purush Shri Rameshbhai Shukla Umrethwala (at present Nadiad). H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj inaugurated Exhibition of H.H. Shri Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced *Akhand Dhoon* Section and performed *Poojan Aarti* of Shri Hari and blessed all the devotees stating that if they perform Dhoon while cherishing in their mind the idol image of Shree Hari then Shree Hari Himself is going to stay in the *Sabha Mandap* of *Dhoon* throughout the *Mahotsav*. Then He initiated *Shree Swaminarayan Maha-Mantra Dhoon*. For three days and nights and from the beginning till end of Mahotsav, this Akhand Dhoon was performed by the saints and the devotees. Thereafter H.H. Shri Mota Mahara visited the Exhibition. At 8.45 hours, all th Three Other Forms of Shree Hari graced th stage of Sabha Mandap and performed *Deep Pragatya* with the learned saints. H.H. Sh Acharya Maharj performed *Poojan-Aarti* Vyas-Pith, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj *Poojan Aarti* of *Vachnamrit Samhit Path* and H.H Shri Mota Maharaj performed *Aarti Mahotsa* of H.H. Shri Aadi Acharya Sh Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj along with the chi hosts of the *Parayan*.



In the beginnin of Mahotsav, all th Other Three Forms Shree Hari release new CDs and book published by Shre Swaminaryan Templ Kalupur. The book were '***Aadi Achary S h r Ayodhyaprasad Maharaj***' written b the devotee Shri Chandrakant Mohanl Pathak, '***Picture Book of Aadi Achary H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Mahara*** prepared by Shree Swaminaryan templ Kalupur and '***Shree Vasudev Mahatmy*** published in Sanskrit-English languag Besides these three books there was MP Cassette of '***Shree Avadh Kirtanavali***' *Kirtans* created by Aadi Achary ShriAyodhyaprasadji Maharaj. MP-3 Casset of '***Shree Sahajanand Sukhdayi***' *Kirta* created by Aadi Acharya ShriAyodhyaprasa Maharaj, Video DVD of 'Darshan of Plac of Prasadi of the Lord Shree Swaminaraya directed by Shri Praful Kharsani and prepare

by the devotees Chandresh Varu and Chirag and also Video DVD on 'Life of Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. The director and the devotees who rendered their services and writers were honoured.

While blessing all the devotees in the beginning of Katha, H.H. Shri Mota Mahraj greeted all the saints and devotees who planned such a big Mahotsav in a very short time and stated, ***"Lord Shree Swaminarayan is Maharaj of all of us. But our Maharaj is Dada also. In Satsang we say Mahraj and at our home we say Dada. While sitting in our family when we talk about Mahraj then even our Bapuji used to say Dada and say whether Thaal was performed to Dada? Whether Aarti was performed to Dada? In the tradition of Acharya established by Shree Hari, our Dada was the first choice of Maharaj because he observed Dharma and got it preserved through Devotees. Each and every incident of his life is inspirational. Real devotee is one who has firm faith and interest in this tradition. During those time, in the books of offerings and services by the devotees maintained by the temple, there were more than 1 lac devotees. So whatever pleasure and happiness we all are enjoying that is because our Dada had suffered great pain and he had taken great pains to strengthen the roots of our Sampradaya. We are yielding the fruits of that Great Perseverance. It is our humble prayer that this Mahotsav of the Almighty may accomplish in all regards."***



On the stage 75 saints, 50 *Brahmin-Bhudevs*, 75 *Haribhaktas* in all 200 *Samhita Pathis* were performing Path of *Vachanamrit*. In the first Session of the first day on *Vyas-Pith Ved Vyakaran* Acharya Sadguru Shastri Nirgundasji Swami, in the second session Mahant of temple Sadguru Shastri Shreejiprakashdasji, in the *Katha* of the first session of the second day Sadguru Shastri P.P. Swami of Jetalpurdham, in the second session Sadguru Shastri Golokviharidasji Swami of Kachchh and Bhuj and in the session of the third day Mahant of Vadnagar Sadguru Shastri Narayanvallabhdasji Swami narrated beautiful *Parayan* of *Shrimad Satsangibhusan* accompanied by beautiful music. In *Sabha Mandap* as well as in *Vishram Mandap* about 20 LCD Sets were placed and there was live telecast of the incidents of the stage. Moreover, pictures and images of the Lord and Shree Hari were also telecast. Video recording of all the incidents and *Sabha* on the stage was also going on and there was live tele-cast of the whole programme from E-TV. Therefore many people and devotees availed the benefit of the whole *Mahotsav* through television, too. They had had also the rare opportunity of *Darshan* of all the three other Forms of Shree Hari, one with red turban, the youngest

with cap and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj with open head sitting together on one *Gadi*. Those who had had this rare benefit would certainly be helped in their life by the Lord Shreeji Maharaj.

In the Katha of the first day in the morning at 11-15 hours there was Pragatyotsav of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj. At that time the chief host family of *Mahotsav* and *Parayan aarti* of *Bal Swaroop* Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj swinging in the golden swing. And all the devotees celebrated *Janmotsav*. Young devotees of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Bapunagar performed *Raas*. There was shower of flowers and chocolates upon the audience. *Anandotsav* was celebrated by firing crackers and shooting the balloons.

On the first day at night, from 9.00 to 12.000 famour Bhajanik of Gujarat Shree Niranjan Pandya, famous singer of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya Shri Hasmukh Patadiya, Shree Jayesh Soni, , Dinesh Vaghasiya, Purav Patel and the artist Shri Vikram Gadhvi performed the programme of Bhajan-Sandhya in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. During the programmed, young devotees of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal of Bapunagar Approach, Harshad and Karm-Shakti temples performed beautiful traditional *Maniyaro Raas* of Saurashtra in traditional costumes of Rabari-Gop. Each and every artist was honoured by H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj.

On the second day 02/06/2009 in the morning at 8.30 hours, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj initiated Group Maha Pooja. Wherein along with the chief host more than 2000 hosts availed the divine benefit of Maha Pooja. Right from the morning, Shree Swaminarayan Nagar was houseful with so many devotees When the capacity of the Sabha Mandap to accommodate the devotees was over Mandap was extended 20 feet on both sides parallel the existing one. Furthermore devotees also availed the benefit of *Katha* while sitting in *Vishram-Mandap*.

In the evening from 5.00 to 7.00, a grand Shobha-Yatra was organized from 'Shree Swaminarayan Baug' the residence of H.H Shri Acharya Maharaj up to place of Mahotsav 'Shree Swaminarayan Nagar'. Right from the beginning this Shobha-yatra was so long that, from Shree Swaminarayan Baug up to one kilometer there were only devotees of Sampradaya. Devotees had started performing Dhoon, Kirtan at 4.00 hours. At 5.00 hours H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj graced beautifully carved chariot and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the place of Mahotsav directly Parshads were holding beautiful umbrellas sheltering both the other Forms of Shree Hari. Two elephants were holding *Kalash* in their trunks and from the *Kalash* water was being sprinkled.

In the Shobha Yatra, first of all there was float of the Lord Ganesha, the second one was a car of Shree Harikrishna Maharaj with an umbrella, the third one was a float of Shlokas of Shiksha-Patri wherein Satsang children were sitting holding little flags in their hands. The fourth one was a float with a shape of a boat wherein the Lord Sahjanand Swami was swinging in a swing; at His feet were sitting the saints and *Parshads*. The fifth was the float with National Flag, Ashok Chakra and other National emblems honouring the Nationalism. Big loud speakers were also placed in that float. Young children devotees

nd *Haribhaktas* were performing *Dhoon-Kirtan*. In the sixth float pictures of *Acharayas* f Shree Narnarayandev Desh Pith were laced wherein in the main seat there was a icture of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. Leading saints were sitting in this oat. The float number seven was meant for reedom from Addiction containing various ypes of pictures and slogans with a Message or the purpose. Many saints and devotees were sitting in that float. The eighth number f float was of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. n this float *Ucchavia Haribhaktas* of Shree Narnarayandev Auchav Mandal were erforming *Kirtan-Auchhav*. In the ninth float here were pictures with message of reserving our environment and trees wherein here was a picture of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj lanting a tree. In the tenth number of float here was the Lord Shree Swaminarayan with the leading saints and in the eleventh loat there were saints, Mahants and Brahmchari Swami and both the Other Forms f Shree Hari granting Darshan to all the levotees. In front of the chariot of H.H. Shri charya Maharaj, the devotees were walking olding different colourful flags, Bhajan Mandli f various temples performing Dhoon Kirtan. Mandal of Bapunagar was performing Kirtan with Raas in Uchhav Dress and was thereby ttracting the attention of all. There was also Musical band in the *Shobha Yatra*. After the hariot of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, there vas a vehicle of H.H. Shri Gadiwalashri ollowed by about 100 to 125 young ladies levotees holding *Kalash* on their heads adding harm to the *Shobha-Yatra*. These ladies vere followed by other ladies performing *Dhoon-Bhajan* and *Kirtan*. Pople were tanding on both the sides of the road, in the gallery and on the terrace of the houses. Some of the devotees performed Darshan with folded hands, some offered garlands, dry fruits and lighting lamp etc. many devotees clicked the phtotographs of the whole Shobha-Yatra in their mobile cameras and made it their permanent personal memory.

કરશે દર્શન ને ગુણ લેશે રે,
વળી પો'ચ્ય પ્રમાણે કાંઈ દેશે રે ।
શ્રધ્ધા સહિત સેવા કરે સોઈ રે,
વળી રાજી થાશે એને જોઈ રે ॥
એવો જન જે જે જગમાંય રે,
તેની કરવી મારે સહાય રે ॥

This is the promise of Shreeji Maharaj in '*Purushottamprakash*'. And such programmes are arranged by original temple for the benefit and emancipation of the devotees.

Many devotees, Mandals rendered their voluntary services of cool water, Rasa and Sarbat during the Shobha-Yatra. The route of the Shobha-Yatra was from 'Shree Swaminarayan Baug' Memnagar, Subhash-Chowk, Gurukul, Drive-in Road, Thaltej Cross Road and it reached at the place of Mahotsav 'Shree Swaminarayan Nagar' at 7.00 hours in the evening. Thousands of devotees welcomed the *Shobha-Yatra* by firing crackers. Many devotees were so excited that even after reaching at the destination, they continued performing Raas, Kirtan-Dhoon etc.

At night from 9.00 to 12.00 hours the famous singer of Gujarat Shree Hemant Chauhan and his companions performed life-time memorable *Bhajan-Sandhya*. Hajuri Parshad Shailesh Bhagat of Dharmkul sang a beautiful Kirtan created by H.H. Shri Avadhprasadji Maharaj along with the musical






अखंडधून







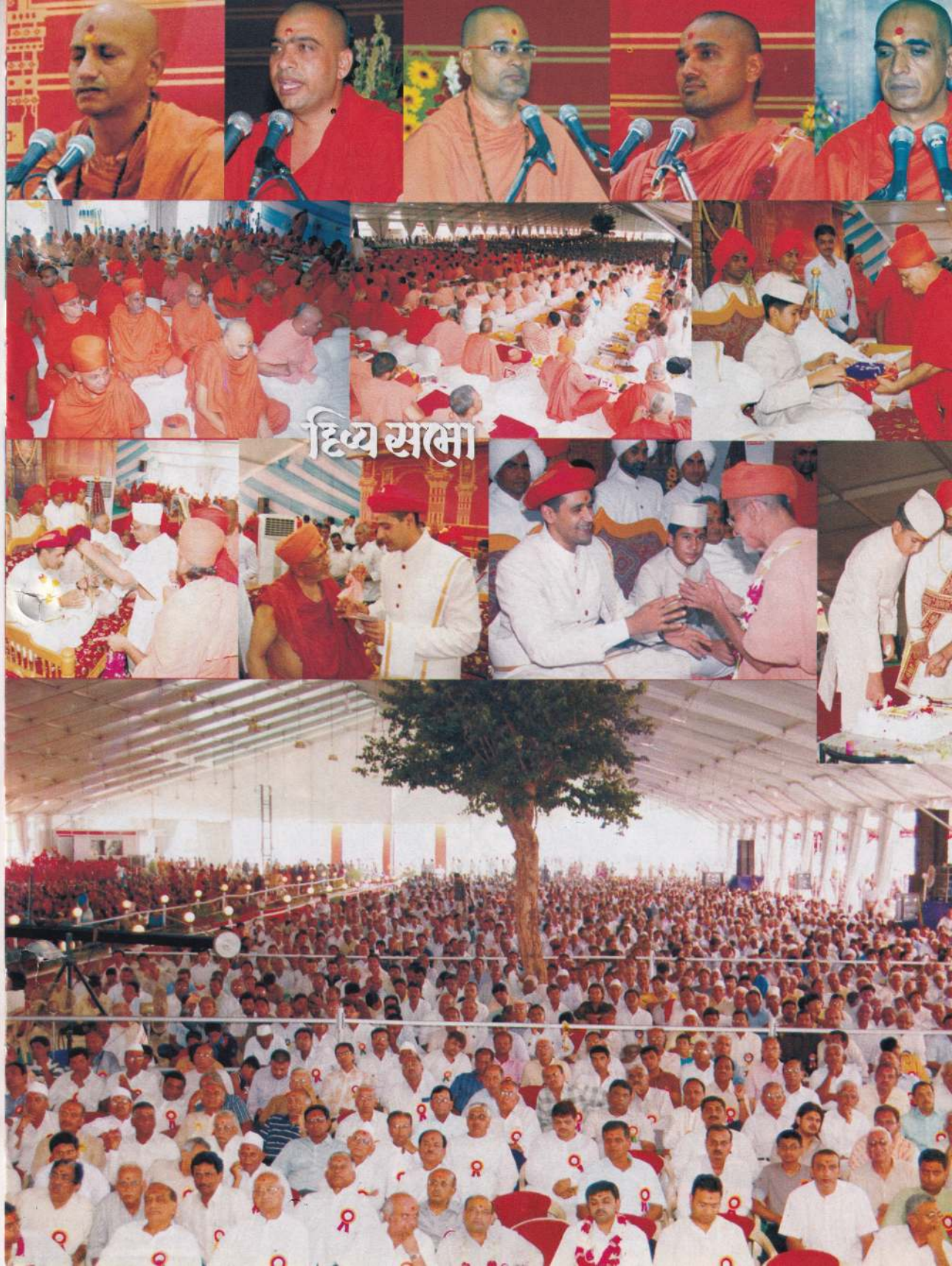


SARANG
SARANG
SARANG


दिव्य सभा






दिव्य सभा


Be Human first
Then Religious
પ.પૂ.આદિ આચાર્યશ્રી અયોધ્યાપ્રસા
ધર્મકુળ
શોભા
આયોજક : શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ



જી મહારાજશ્રી જન્મ દ્વિશતાબ્દી

દા મહોત્સવ

યાત્રા

મંદિર, કાલુપુર, અમદાવાદ-૧.

भोजनशाळा

























भोजनशाळा











सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम

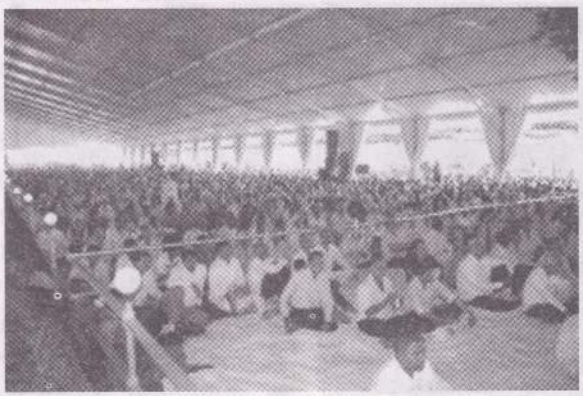






organs. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj honoured all the artists.

On 03/06/2009 at 5.00 hours in the morning there was performed Mangal Aarti of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and the hosts performed Mahabhishek Poojan of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. From 6.00 to 6.30 hours in the evening, Mahabhishek of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev was performed by Acharya of both the Gadis of Ahmedabad and Vadtal and it was concluded by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj of Ahmedabad Gadi graced the place of Mahotsav. At 8.30 hours in the morning divine Chhapan Bhog-Annakut and Shangar Aarti of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev were performed by Acharya of Vadtal H.H. Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.



At 9.15 hours in the morning, concluding ceremony of Shree Hari Yaag was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. All the four Other Forms of Shree Hari used to grace the stage. H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwalashri, H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwalashri, H.H. Shri Laliraja and the whole Dharmkul used to grace the place of Mahotsav and listened to Katha and granted divine Darshan to the devotees. The specialty of the spokesperson of the Parayan was that, while narrating Katha of Shrimad Satsangibhusan, they also narrated the incidents of the life of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

At 10.00 hours in the morning, concluding ritual of Shrimad Satsangibhushan Parayan was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Moreover, poojan Aarti of 200th Pragatya Janm Jaynati of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was performed by Mahant Shastri swami Harikrishnadasji and other leading saints as well as the chief hosts. At 10.15 hours in the morning Poojan-Aarti of Dharmkul was performed by the chief host devote Shri Gangarambhai M. Patel family. On this occasion Dwivedi sir, the father-in-law of Binduraja was honoured by Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji Shri Rakeshprasadji Maharaj.

During all the three days of Mahotsav a large number of devotees, people from different strata of the society viz. industrialists, scientists, government officials, leaders in the fields of social work and religious institutions and many other dignitaries had remained present and availed the benefit of Mahotsav. On the last day Shri Narendrabhai Modi, the Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat had also graced the occasion. As per the courtesy taught to us in pious '*Shiksha-Patri*' all the dignitaries were honoured by all the three Other Forms of Shree Hari with garland, shawl, an idol of Shree Hari and a book of *Sampradaya*. These dignitaries also acknowledged their honour through their speeches suitable to the

occasion.

Similarly during all the three days a large number of *Brahmanistha* saints and Mahants from various places of our *Sampradaya* viz. Bhuj, Muli, temples of Ahmedabad city, Dholka, Dholera, Vadtal, Jungadh, Jetalpur, Chhapaiya, Surendranagar, Gandhingar, Idar, Mansa, Mahesana, Charadva, Sokli, Viramgar, Vali, Bamroli, Vahelal, Vadnagar, Unava, Mathura, Kalol, Badrinarayan, Sapavada, Limbdi, HImatnagar, Halvad, Allahabad, Nathdwara, Haridwar, Jamiyatpura, Torda, Prantij, Laloda, Dhariyavad, Nepal, Jaidevpura, Dhrangadhra etc. All these saints were honoured with garlands by the three Other Forms of Shree Hari. On this occasion, devotees also availed the benefit of divine speeches of the leading learned saints.



Learned Sadguru Shastri Harikeshavdasji swami (Gandhinagar), who has lion's contribution in literature of Sampradaya, explained the rare incidents of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and what is *Dharmkul Vandana*? which stunned all the saints and devotees present on the occasion. Similarly Mahant of Jetalpur Sadguru Shastri Atmaprakashdasji Swami, who is like a lion as regards faith in *Sampradaya*, stated that, even the Lord Shree Swaminarayan is not present in the *Sabha*, which is conducted without the directions-presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj even if such *Sabha* is conducted in the name of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. The roots of the arrangement made by the Lord Shree Swaminarayan are very deep. Similarly Chief *Kothari* of Vadal Bapu Swami Dharmapriyajidasji Swami stated that, only those who can sit on these two Gadis of Sampradaya- is Acharya of this *Sampradaya*.

All the three Other Forms of Shree Hari honoured with garlands, shawl and idol image of Shree Hari the Chief Host of Mahotsav Akshar Nivasi Naranbhai Jadva Khetani family (Eastern Sukhpar-Kachchh, at present Wilsdon, London), Co-Host of Mahotsav and Chief Host of Parayan Akshari Nivasi Chanalba Ambalal Madhavdas family, Chief Host of Shri Hari-Yaag devotee Shri Visrambhai laljibhai Gopla Pindoriya (Madhapar, Kachchh, at present Perth, Australia), the host of Mahabhishek and Annakut of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev etc. deities devotee Shri Laxmanbhai Construction Co. Ltd. (Nairobi, Cecils, U.K. and India) Raghvani family, the chief host of *Dharmkul* family devotee Shri Gangarambhai Mahdevbhai (Pandharpurwala), co-host of *Dharmkul Poojan* devotees Shri Kantibhai Mavji Vishram Khimani Family inspired by Sadgur Purani Swami Shri Haridasji and Sadguru Purani Swami Patit Pavandasji. The hosts of Maha-Prasad of the first, second and the third day Aksharnivasi devotee Shri Ramdas Amthabhai Patel family (Itadaravala, at present Victor, Chicago, U.S.A.), devotee

Shri Chimanbhai Somabhai Patel family (Anandvala, at present U.S.A.) and Akshrinvasi Kankuben Kachardas and Aksharnivasi Kachardas Shankardas Patel family (Dangarvavala of Jatanba) respectively and many other hosts and co-hosts of as many as 50 different sections and many other donors. Among the donors devotee Sheth Shri Gvoindbhai C. Patel of Shree Swaminarayan Nagar Bhumi (Ganesh Housing Pvt. Ltd) Ahmedabad is main.

About 160 students who passed with first, second and third rank in the examination conducted at different centres by Shree Narnarayandev Religious Section were honoured by H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and girl students were given prized by Shri Lali Raja. On this occasion, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj also honoured His two friends. A list of the donors, who rendered their services of huge amount for renovation and/ or reconstruction of Kalupur temple, multi-storey parking, and renovation of Bamroli temple of Madhya Pradesh and temple of Hanumanji of Naranpura village established by H.H. Shri Acyodhyaprasadji Maharaj, was declared and each of them was honoured.

The members of the Scheme Committed of Ahmedabad Temple, Chief Karbhari, devotee Shri Narsinhbhai V. Nasit and devotee Shri Pravinbhai V. Nasit and other leading builders and Auditor and persons rendering services of video recording of Mahotsav were also honoured. On this occasion devotees of various areas of Ahmedabad viz. Naranpura, Naranghat, Nava Vadaj, Ghatlodiya, Jivrajpark, Bapunagar, Approach, Harshad Colony, Meghaninagar, Soja, Kalol, Vihar, Mokhasan, Kalol (East), Kalol (Sri nagar), Balol (Bhal), Kaliyana, Bhaupura, Vadu, Kanipur etc. more than 90 villages rendered their services.

In the office of 'Shree Swaminarayan' Magazine opened for three days on the ground of *Mahotsav*, with the subscription of Rs.200/-, about more than 500 life members were registered. For the first two days, a blood donation camp was also organized wherein a large number of devotees donated blood with a noble intention of being helpful to the needy people, as directed by Shree Hari in pious '*Shiksha-Patri*'. Lacs of devotees attended the *Mahotsav* during these three days and many of them had acquired real knowledge about the principles of *Sampradaya* and tradition of Dharmvanshi Acharya. All these devotees had *Maha-Prasad* of the sweets like *Ladu, Mesub, Jalebi* salty items like *Bhajiya, Khaman*, vegetables of different types, rice, *Daal*, and butter-milk as also the fruits on the last day of fast of *Ekadashi.* To offer meals to all the devotees at one time, is possible only with the blessings of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan.

During all the three days, Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji of Koteshwar Gurukul had conducted the *Sabha*. At the end of this *Maha-Mahotsav*, all the four Other Forms of Shree Hari blessed all the saints and the devotees. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj conducted a special *Sabha* at 2.00 hours in the afternoon for the volunteers of the *Mahotsav* and blessed them. Similarly, H.H. Shri Gadiwala also conducted a special *Sabha* of the ladies volunteers devotees and blessed them. Even after the *Sabha*, many volunteers devotees remained at the place and until everything was over they rendered their services and then went home. Thus, this *Mahotsav* has had a permanent mark in the

memory of all the devotees. At last, I conclude my reporting with 15 good sayings heard from the learned five saints of *Parayan*:

• One should not make a crowd to touch the lotus-like feet of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj when he is walking. It should be done when he is sitting. We should sit only



after our Guru takes his seat. We should not sit when our Guru is standing.

• After reading 'Shiksha-Patri' we should think whether we are following the directions contained in it. This type of thinking is called *Manan;* and when we put it in our action after this *Manan* then it is called *Nididhyas.*

• If one again goes back to addiction after reading a Shloka of 'Shiksha-Patri' relating to addiction, then can we call it real reading! It is real reading only when we put it into our action.

• The whole world is happy with the one upon whom the Almighty Lord is happy. If we try to make happy each and every person then we can make happy all.

• The Almighty Lord has given us the hand to offer alms to the needy and not to snatch away anything from others. Our hands are meant for giving alms and protecting others.

• There is poison in the tail of a crab. Similarly there is anger at the tail of love. One becomes mad in love then there is a blast and with the blast there emerges anger which spoils the language.

• If one wishes emancipation, it is available at the Gate of *Dharmvanshi* and nowhere else.

• The things which are touched by the Almighty are incomparable; they are the Things of Prasadi.

• In Kaliyug, the Lord comes at the doorstep of the devotees. In the remaining three Yug (Satyug, Dwapar-Yug and Treta-Yug, the devotee has to go to the doorstep of the Almighty Lord). The Lord Shree Swaminarayan has graced the houses of the devotees wherever they lived.

• There is a requirement of both *Pooja* and *Pustak* (book). If there is no study of *Pustak* then with the coming of obstacles and misery in life, one leaves aside his *Pooja*. If there is *Pooja* there is *Pustak* and if there is *Pustak* there is *Pooja*.

• People purchase a number of things from the market. But no one wishes to purchase the scripture. In home there should be a library of the scriptures.

• One should always remain an ardent devotee of the Almighty Lord. It is very difficult to scrupulously follow the directions of the Almighty Lord.

• Those who honour others and respect others, never feels devoid of honour and respect in his own life.

• Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya is a Sampradaya of emancipation. The Lord Shree Swaminaryan has made the path of emancipation very easy.

Wonderful Miracles of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj

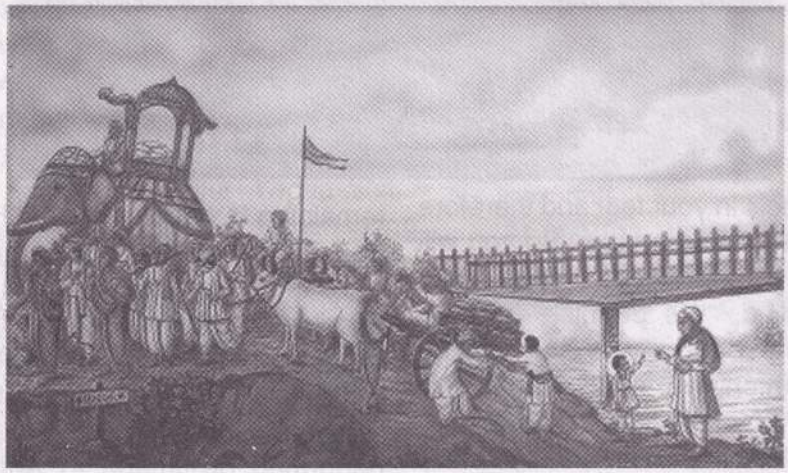
- Kothari Swami Krishnavallabhdasji (Surendranagar)

The Lord Shree Swaminarayan took birth in Chhapaiyapur and performed many wonderful *Lila-Charitra*. With the excuse of plucking a thorn from the sole, showed 16 sign-symbols to Suvasinibhabhi. Bhabhi was surprised to observe these 16 sign-symbols and stated, "There are 16 sign-symbols in your feet and therefore you are the Form of Paramatma. So you will establish a big Sampradaya." Then Little Ghanshyam replied, "We promise that, we shall place your son on the Gadi of the Sampradaya which we shall establish." Thereafter Ghanshyam Maharaj performed Van-Vicharan after his parents passed away to *Akshardham*. Then he came to Gujarat and established *Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya*. Performed pilgrimage to many places and helped the people obtain Moksha, established 09 (nine) temples, got created the scriptures like 'Shiksha-Patri', 'Vachanamrit', 'Satsangi-Jeevan', 'Satsangi-Bhushan' etc., at last the Lord established two Gadi- North Desh and South Desh. On the Gadi of North Desh of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, the Lord established H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and directed all the saints and the devotees that the Lord is establishing on His Own place Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and therefore they all should perform all the works and deeds of the Sampraday while remaining in obedience of H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. The Lord also gave promise to H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj that though the North Desh is dry but the Lord shall always remain with him. Following the directions, H.H. Shri Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performed pilgrimage to Ahmedabad, Muli Kachchh regions and propagated *Satsang* graced the houses of the people and devotees and explained to them the importance of the Supreme Lord Shree Swaminarayan. He had special affection with Muli temple and therefore most of the time he used to stay at Muli temple and grace the villages of Muli-Desh. Furthermore, he had also offered the ornaments of his mother Suvasinibha



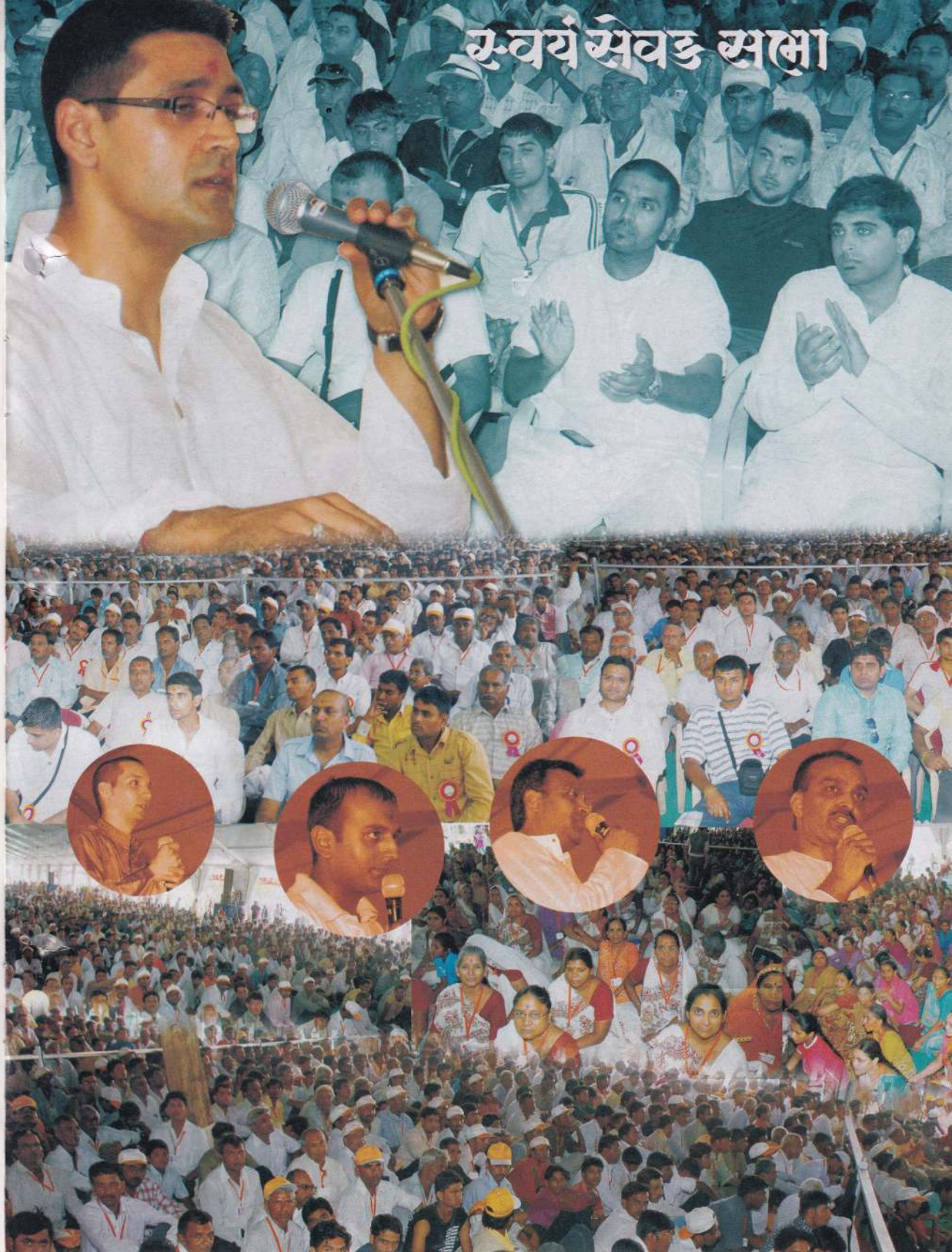
Sadguru Brahmanand Swami for the purpose f construction of temple. These ornaments of Prasadi are still there in Muli temple. H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj had erformed many wonderful miracles in Muli Desh. Some of them are narrated hereunder:

The king Muli, Ramabhai did not have a on. With the blessings and Vachana of Sadguru Brahmanand Swami, he had two ons. Vakhatsinhji had much affection with H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and he used to render great services o Maharaj. Therefore, H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj had told him in dvance that now he had left only four months o live and therefore now he may offer alms at is will and his wish. Accordingly Vakhatsinghi ffered meals o Thakorji, charya Maharaj, aints and laribhaktas. fter four nonths as per ne words of laharaj, H.H. hri Acharya hri yodhyaprasadji laharaj along ith the Lord Shreeji Maharaj came to take ne devotee Vakhatsinghji and the devotees ho were present at that time had this *Darshan* Story-25 of Tadrupanand Swami)



The King Kesharisinhji of Sayla came to luli for Darshan of H.H. Shri Acharya Shri yodhyaprasadji Maharaj and prayed that he as unhappy and he was not getting rid of it nd therefore now how he had come seeking ne shelter of Maharaj. The king was confident that, no one else other than Maharaj can help him get rid of his misery. The devotee stated, "One person has died craving for Garas (right over huge plot of land) and now he has turned into an evil spirit. The moment I sit for the lunch, all the meals in the dish turn into insects. The evil spirit also does not allow me to sleep peacefully." Maharaj replied that, he would come to his house and at night H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj graced his house and stayed there overnight. At night that Barot who turned into an evil spirit, started shouting, "I am burning, why are you harassing me though you are the Head of the Sect and started crying. Please show me the way." Maharaj stated, "Go to Badrikashram there you will get emancipation. The evil spirit fell down from above and there was huge lightening." All the devotees and Darbar witnessed this whole incident. Thus Maharaj removed the unhappiness of Darbar and granted emancipation to Barot. (Story-32 of Tadrupanand Swami)

Once H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj asked the devotees in Muli to celebrate great *Ganpati Utsav* on the pious day of '*Ganpati Choth*'. The *Utsav* was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour. During the Utsav, Ladha Thakkar doubted why Maharaj being the son of *Purna-Purushottam* is performing *poojan* of *Ganpatiji*?


स्वयंसेवक सभा





શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ નગર ખાતે પૂર્વ તૈયારી નિહાળતા પ.પૂ.મોટા મહારાજશ્રી અને પ.પૂ.આચાર્ય મહારાજશ્રી



ધર્મકુળના મહેમાનો



સાંખ્યયોગી બહેનો



પૂ.ગાદીવાળાશ્રીના દર્શન માટેની કતાર




रोशनीथी झळाहळतं मंदिर



વિધાનસભાના અધ્યક્ષ શ્રી અશોકભાઈ ભટ્ટ



શ્રી જયનારાયણ વ્યાસ તથા શ્રી ફકીરભાઈ વાઘેલા



શ્રી સિધ્ધાર્થ પટેલ, શ્રી અર્જુન મોઢવાડીયા તથા શ્રી સુરેન્દ્ર બક્ષી
અને અન્ય કોંગ્રેસના મહાનુભાવો



ગુજરાત પોલીસ મહાનિર્દેશક
શ્રી ખંડવાવાલા સાહેબ



ગણેશ કોર્પોરેશનવાળા શ્રી ગોવિંદભાઈ પટેલ





At the same time he observed the divine light emitting from the idol image of *Ganpatiji* and he had had *Darshan* of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj in the idol image. All the devotees also performed *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing *poojan*. (Story-64 of Tadrupanand Swami)

Once H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was performing the ritual of Yagno-pavit on the pious day of *Bhadarva Sud-2* in Muli on the bank of the river Bhogavo. Akhabhai of Tavi and Vibhaji of Susvav doubted why Maharaj being the son of *Purna-Purushottam* is performing the ritual of *Tarpan*? At that time all the saints and the devotees had had Darshan of Shreeji Maharaj amidst all Rishi-Munis offering Yagnopavit to H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

Vashram Khavas, Hajuri of Darbar Sataji was very sick. Someone informed H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj about his sickness. Therefore Maharaj was coming his home to grant him *Darshan*. On the way the news of his death came; even then Maharaj went there. All other devotees who were present there, prevented Maharaj from touching the dead body of Vashram Khavas. But Maharaj informed the devotees that, the patient is in good condition except that he is suffering from severe heat. Maharaj asked the devotees to bring curd. The moment curd was offered to the patient, he recovered and stood up from his bed and bowed down at the feet of Maharaj. All the devotees and Darbar were surprised and believed that Maharaj was the Other Form of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj.

Once Nagar Brahmin Bapuji and Laxmanrao of Ahmedabad came to Muli to perform Darshan of H.H. Shri Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. During their stay in Muli, Bapuji fell ill and therefore Maharaj graced his residence to grant him Darshan. Mahara told him that now he was not going to survive so whether he wanted to die in Muli or in Ahmedabad? The devotee left the decision upon Maharaj; therefore Maharaj directed him to go to Ahmedabad and promised him that he along with Shreeji Maharaj would come there to take him to *Akshardham*. When the sick devotee reached Ahmedabad, Shreej Maharaj came to the Sabha of Maharaj and asked Maharaj to go with Him to bring the sou of the devotee. Shreeji Maharaj graced the



house of the devotee; therefore the devote being very much pleased with the promise o Maharaj, asked his wife to bring a silve ornament and offered it at the feet of Mahara Thereafter Maharaj granted Darshan to all th devotees and took the Brahmin devotee wit Him. (Story-69 of Tadrupanand Swami)

Once there was Lunar eclipse of *Shravan Purnima* in Muli. After the Lunar eclipse wa over, all went to the river Bhogavo to take th bath. At that time the devotee Jagjivanda informed Maharaj that there was no water i the river and so now where they would tak the bath? Maharaj asked him to sing Kirtan i Malhaar Raag. The moment the devote Jishnudasji sang the Kirtan in Malhaar Raag there came water in the river. At night ther

was a Sabha in the chowk of the village wherein for one hour all the devotees had had Darshan of Shreeji Maharaj sitting beside Maharaj. Ali touched the feet of Maharaj. (Story-72 of Tadrupanand Swami)

There are many such miracles of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. Maharaj has performed severe fast for 52 days without water and meals, has remained in *Samadhi* and has removed the miseries of all the devotees. Many devotees have been granted *Moksha*. On completion of 200 years of Janma-Jayanti of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, the first Acharya of Shree Narnarayandev Desh Gadi, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had a noble thought to celebrate this 200th Janma Jayanti of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and accordingly with the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, it was decided to celebrate it with great enthusiasm and fervour. Accordingly from 1st June 2009 to 3rd June 2009 a great Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' was celebrated in Ahmedabad wherein there were performed Katha of 3-days, Yagna of 3-days etc. This was a memorable festival. Creation of unique Sabha-Mandap wherein Katha-Shravan of five learned saints, appropriate honour of the saints and the devotees, formation of 51-Kundi in Hari-Yagna and poojan and ritual by the learned saints in Vedic tradition. Picture-gallery on Life & Charitra of Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, a beautifully carved Entrance Gate and temple of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev-all were worthy of Darshan. With *Dhoon-Bhajan* of Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra and *Bhojan* for all the devotees, the festival was a life-long memory for all the devotees.

This was the first festival for me, wherein there was a dome without any single pillar wherein thousands of devotees were having their meals together. There were separate sitting arrangements for the saints, V.I.P, N.R.I. and the devotees. Every morning there was breakfast, at noon there was delicious lunch, in the evening a cup of tea and at night again the dinner. Moreover, everywhere one could find cool water as well as butter-milk. There was constant sprinkling of water on the ground of the festival and therefore even during the scorching heat of the summer, everyone was feeling cool climate in the premises of the festival. There was no any kind of deficiency anywhere. Everything was available and yet there was no any wastage or overuse or abuse of anything. Therefore every devotee was heard talking happily that they had never seen before such a beautiful arrangement and management. According to me this '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' was the best festival among all the festivals so far celebrated in our Sampradaya. There was unique and divine pleasure in the hearts of all the devotees.

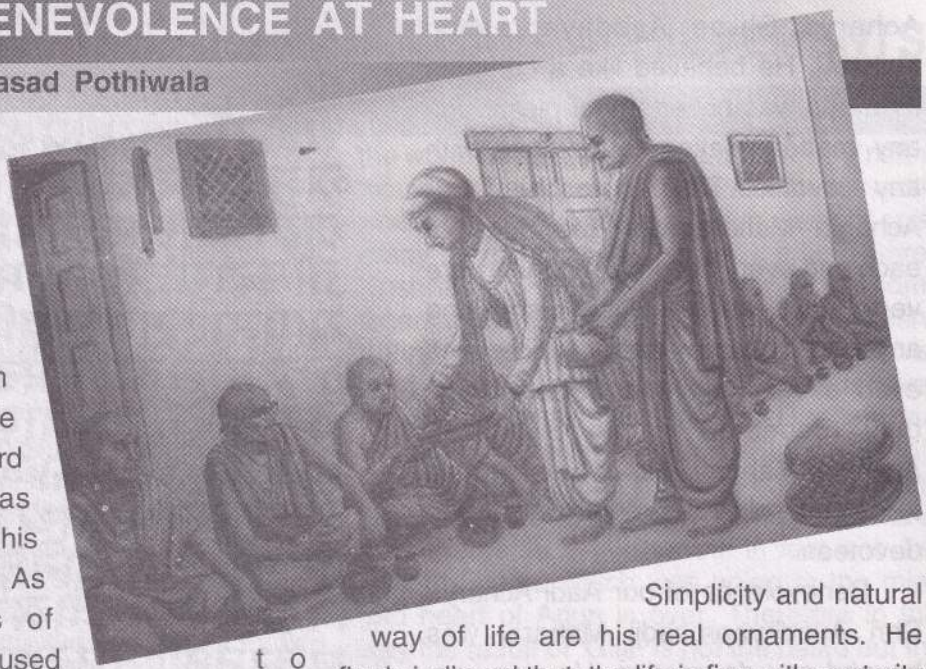
The credit of this festival goes to our Acharya H.H. 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Mhaaraj, Mahant of Ahmedabad temple Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, and generosity and constant presence of all the members of the Scheme Committee and hard work of all other saints as well as Haribhaktas and the volunteers who worked hard day and night to make this festival of '*Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*' a grand success. Real great was the festival and greater were the perseverance and devotion of services by our reverent saints and Haribhaktas and the greatest was the guidance and blessings of the whole Dharmkul.

DAILY DARSHAN

1. Ahmedabad : www.swaminarayan.in
2. Jetalpur : www.jetalpurdarshan.com
3. Mahesana : www.mahesanadarshan.com

UTMOST BENEVOLENCE AT HEART

- Atulbhai Bhanuprasad Pothiwala



At the tender age of 17 years, Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj became Acharya of Shree Narnarayandev Desh Ahmedabad Pith. He was the son of the Lord Shree Hari and was very conscious about his duties as Acharya. As per the directions of Shreeji Maharaj, he used to take care of all the temples along with Niranjandasji Swami.

Though his life was very busy and yet he used to spend considerable time behind Seva-Pooja and Aaradhna and he had never cut this time. *Atmanishtha* and *Sthitpragya* were his special characteristics. He was Dhyan-Yogi and used to perform pilgrimage of villages for propagation of Satsang. He has identified this Satsang as the original Satsang of the Lord Shree Hari. In all the three conditions of his mind, he had constant Darshan of the Lord Shree Hari. He had great respect as also love and affection for the saints and Haribhaktas. He had no any kind of preference or prejudice towards the rich and the poor devotees. When he was on his pilgrimage of the villages, he used to grace the houses of all the devotees.

Simplicity and natural way of life are his real ornaments. He firmly believed that, the life is fine with austerity and discipline and not with any pomp or outward decoration. Simple white turban and dhoti was his regular and permanent dress. In one of the Kirtans, Brahmanand Swami has stated:

"કાન તારો કંઠ કહ્યામાં ન આવે,
હાં રે એ તો કૌસ્તુભમણિને શોભાવે !"

Similarly due to his divine personality, the dress of our Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji looked very impressive. While on his pilgrimage to the villages, our Acharya Maharaj used to talk with each and every devotee very affectionately. The devotees, who came in contact, had had the feeling as if they were meeting with any elder member of his family so affectionate and appropriate was his guidance in any matter.

There was no any pomp or hypocrisy in

the conduct and behavior of our Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. He behaved like a common man and was never shy of discussing any matter relating to Satsang with any devotee. This approach of our Acharya Maharaj won the heart of each and every devotee and they were very much happy while discussing anything Acharya Maharaj. Because even a very common Satsangi was duly respected in the Sabha of Acharya Maharaj. His words proved to be the spiritual strength for all the devotees.

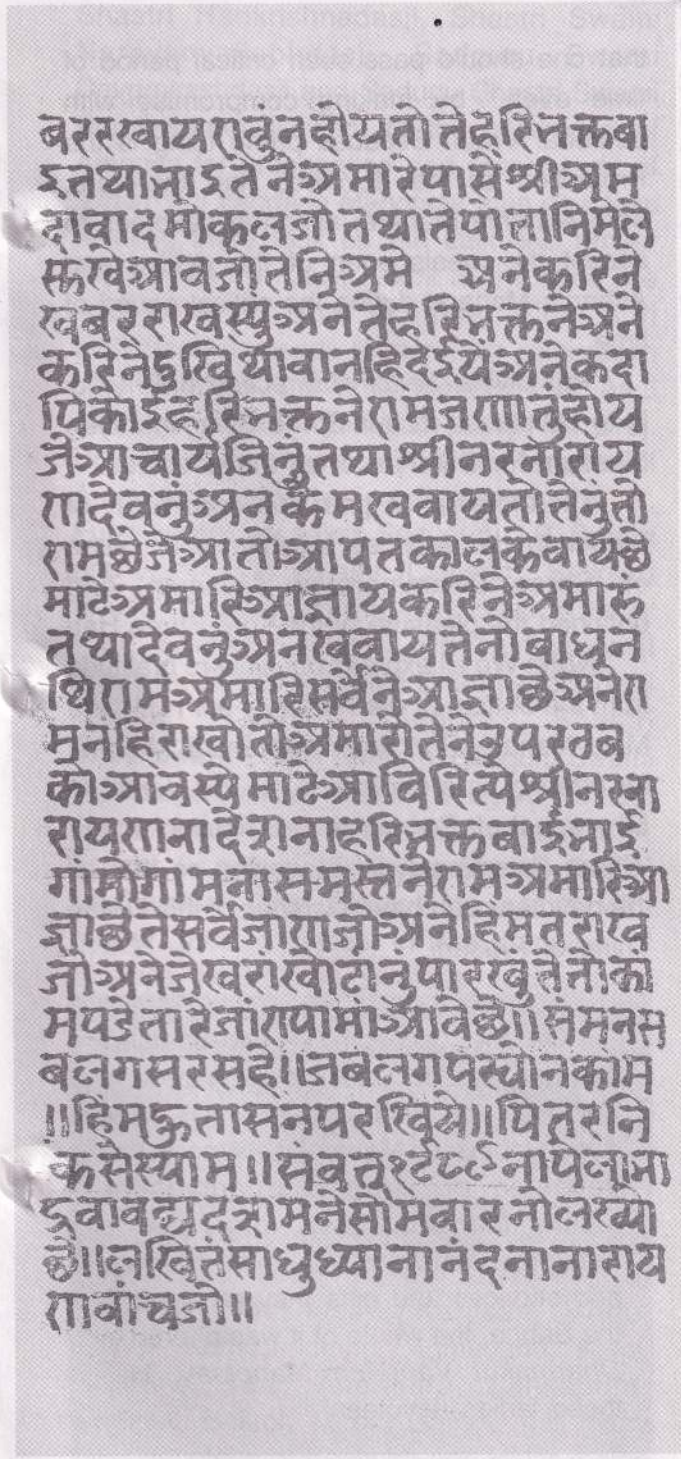
Benevolence of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was beyond any description. He was very generous. The Lord Shree Hari himself has stated, "We have poured our divinity in our Acharya". "Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was possessing the qualities the same as the Lord Shreeji Maharaj."

In him there was a nice and rare combination of both generosity and benevolence.

As the caretaker of Sampradaya, he knew it very well how to maintain the firm faith and devotion of the devotees in Sampradaya. When a critical period is going on then only humanism is the only real Dharma. And therefore he was busy thinking and taking action how to protect the devotees and how to take care of


॥श्री॥

॥स्वस्तिश्रीनरनारायणामहाराजनाच
रणारविंदसमीपश्रीअक्षरधामसेहेश्री
अमदावादथिलखावितेआचार्यश्री
अयोध्याप्रसादजीमहाराजहरिकृष्ण
जीमहाराजजतआमाराश्रीनरनारा
यणानादेशनासत्संगिबाईभाईसम
स्तअमाराजयश्रीस्वामीनारायणावां
चजो॥बिजुंलखवाकारणाएमछेजो
हमणांश्रीदेशकालकुवराछेतेमाटे
बाईभाईसमस्तधर्ममांरहिनेश्रीजी
महाराजनेभजजोनेश्रीजिमहाराजने
निरंतरसंभारजोअनेआपणासर्वनि
खबरतेश्रीजिमहाराजराखसेबिजुं
आपणासत्संगमांकोइहरिभक्तअने
कुरिनेदुखियाथतोहोयएमजणातो
होयतोतेगांमनाहरिभक्तनेपोचवा
लाहोयतेतेसर्वमुखिनेजेपोतपोता
नागांममांबाईभाईहरिभक्तअनेक
रिनेदुखियाथताहोयतोतेनिश्रनेकरि
नेतेहरिभक्तनिबिजासर्वहरिभक्तम
लिनेखबरराखुसोअनेदुखितेनेथा
वादेसोमांअनेजोकदापितेदुखिहरि
भक्तहोयनेबिजाहरिभक्ततेनिश्रने
करिनेखबरराखिसकेरामनोयतोअ
मारेनामेअनमांहिनेतेनिखबरराख
विअनेअमारेनामेजेअनमांहुहसेते
अनेनोअमेसर्वदासाबमजरेआपसु
अनेजोकोपिअमारेनामेअनेकरिनेरव



them during such times.

Once there was severe drought in the month of Bhadarva, Samvat 1889 in Ahmedabad Desh. Therefore, in order to protect all the devotees from this critical period of natural calamity, our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj sent a '*Letter of Direction*' to all the devotees of Desh. This '*Letter of Direction*' is still preserved and is at present with our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj. If we study this '*Letter of Direction*' *of Prasadi* then we would find, how generous and benevolent was our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. With this article, a photo-copy of this '*Letter of Direction*' is also published for *Darshan* and benefit of all the devotees of our Sampradaya.

The essence of this letter, which is written in *Prakrut-Nagari Lipi*, can be summarized in the sections as under:

1) In the first section, Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj utters 'Jai Shree Swaminarayan' to all the ladies and gents devotees of our Sampradaya.

2) In the second section, Acharya Maharaj asks all the devotees to have firm faith in the Lord during the present critical period and instills in them confidence that if we keep firm faith in the Lord Shree Hari, who is the Father of all of us, then the Lord certainly takes care of us.

3) In the third section, Acharya Maharaj has explained how the rich and wealthy devotees should take care of other devotees in respect of daily necessities of life viz. food.

4) In the fourth and central section of the letter, Acharya Maharaj has directed that if it is not possible to help the needy devotees then Haribhaktas should demand from other Haribhaktas these necessities in the name of Aadi Acharya of Sampradaya and thereby they should help these needy devotees. Account of such a help can be maintained by the devotees and then it would be granted by Acharya Maharaj. Here important point to be observed is that, Acharya Maharaj is talking about adjusting such amount against his personal income and not from the income of the temple. Furthermore it is also directed by Acharya Maharaj that, if even this is not possible then such devotees may come to the temple at Ahmedabad and then Acharya Maharaj himself would help such needy devotees. How merciful and benevolent our Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was!!! Nature, temperament, personality and life style of 6th Acharya of Ahmedabad Desh Pith, H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj is just like his great grand-father Shree Aadi Acharya Maharaj as many of us have experienced it.

5) In the fifth and the last section of the letter, Acharya Maharaj has directed that during the critical period one can deviate from his Vrata and can accept the meals of the deity as well as Acharya Maharaj.

In the famous incident of Kushalba (Kadvibai) of Mahesana at whose home the Lord Shree Hari had directed to accept Khichdi even without performing the daily pooja. This was due to ardent affection and devotion of this devotee. Here also Aadi Acharya Maharaj Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj has directed that one should pass such critical period of time even by making compromise with personal Vrata. Because prime thing is the Protection of the devotee. And therefore, here Acharya Maharaj asks the devotees to accept the meals even of the deities and Acharya Maharaj during the critical period of time.

This divine '*Letter of Direction*' of Prasadi is to be placed in our Shree Swaminarayan Museum for Darshan of all the devotees.

Therefore let us grab this opportunity of rendering our services for this noble cause of 'Shree Swaminarayan Museum' and obtained the pleasure of the Lord Shree Hari

Note: We all express our sincere gratitude from the bottom of our hearts of our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj for offering us a photo-copy of this '*Letter of Directions*' of *Prasadi* for publication in our '*Shree Swaminarayan*' Magazine so that all the devotees can have *Darshan* of this Divine Thing of *Prasadi*.

On the occasion of Dwi-Shatabdi Janma-Jayanti Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav of Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, satsangi ladies devotees of Shree Narnarayandev Mahila Mandal, Ranip, organized a Satsang Sabha and whatever offerings and services and gifts they received in the Sabha, the whole of it was offered in *Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*. Hail these ladies devotees!

LIFE OF AADI ACHARYA SHRI AYODHYAPRASADJI MAHRAJSHRI (BASED ON EXHIBITION)

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

WHILE ENTERING IN TO '*Shree Swaminarayan Nagar*' in '*Shree Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav*', on the right side, there was an exhibition on Life of our Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. There was a footnote under each picture of the exhibition narrating the incident or event of that picture. It has now been published in the book-form by Kalupur temple. Many members of '*Shree Swaminarayan*' Magazine may not have come to perform *Darshan* of this exhibition and this book may not be available with everyone. So here is presented the whole exhibition in nut-shell in the form of a series of events, which shall reach to every such devotee through this magazine and they would avail the benefit of relishing it. This is based on the exhibition of '*Dharmkul Vanadana Mahotsav*':

1. *Aadi Acharya* H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, who was dejected with Ahmedabad Shri Narnarayandev Desh Gadi, was told by Shree Hari, "***I am with you.***"

2. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj studying the scriptures viz. *Vedas* and *Puranas* as well as Sanskrit language from the learned *Pandit.*

3. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing *poojan-archan* to the respected saints.

4. Gangama of Jetalpur offering the meals to H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj like Shree Hari.

5. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj celebrating *Rangotsav* of *Vasant Panchmi* with the saints and *Haribhaktas* in Mulidham.

6. *Nand* saints performing *poojan-archan* and *aarti* of H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

7. When H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and the saints and *Haribhaktas* were on their pilgrimage to Shivpuri (Madhya Pradesh), a wheel of a bullock-cart got stuck up on the slope of the riverbank. At that time, Shree Hari protected all of them, made bridge over the river and helped them cross the river and also granted *Darshan* of *Bal-swaroop.*

8. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj listening to '*Shrimad Bhagwat Katha*' in the *Sabha* of the saints and *Haribhaktas.*

9. After the first ever *Abhishek* of *Acharyas* on both the *Gadis* of Ahmedabad and Vadtal, Sayajirao Gaiekwar Government of Vadodara performing the first ever historical *Samaiya.*

10. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj preaching and sermonizing *Dharma* to the people in Dungarpur village in Rajasthan.

11. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj granting *Maha-Diksha* of *Tyagi* (Saint) to the devotees in *Vedic* tradition.

12. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing *Mahabhishek* of Shree Narnarayandev and celebrating *Patotsav* in Ahmedabad.

13. While rendering service to his father Shri Rampratapji Maharaj in his childhood, H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj follows the directions of Shree Hari scrupulously.

14. On the pious bank of Narayan Sarovar in Chhapaiyadham, H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj narrating *Katha* of *Shri Ghanshyam Leelamrit.*

15. New *Shikhar-baddha* temple of Idar in Sabarkantha being constructed under the guidance and supervision of H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

16. Divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj to whom even the suffering of bite of a poisonous creature could not affect.

17. *Chaul Samskara* ritual of *Bal* Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj being performed on the pious bank of Narayan Sarovar in Chhapaiyadham.

18. On completion of construction work of new temple, the King of Idar offering the property documents of the temple to H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

19. H.H. Shri Rampratapji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj along with *Dharmakul* gracing village Loya from Chhapaiya on the occasion of *Shakotsav* and performing *Darshan* of Shree Hari.

20. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj teaching mediation and *Astaang-Yoga* to the saints.

21. On attaining the age of 08 years as prescribed by the scriptures, H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj is being granted *Yagnopavit Samskara* in Ayodhya.

22. H.H. Shri Suvasini Bai offering meals to her son H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

23. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing invocation ritual of the idol images in *Shikhar-baddha* temple in Mandvi, Kachchh.

24. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj offering *Kanthi* of *Tulsi* to the devotees after granting them *Vartmaan*.

25. In his childhood H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj singing self-written *Kirtan* before his father H.H. Shri Rampratapji Maharaj.

26. Robbers of Chambal becoming *Satsangi* in front of H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj in Bamroli (Madhya Pradesh).

27. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj offering meals to the saints.

28. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj teaching religious poems and *Kirtans* of Shree Hari to the saints.

29. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing bath along with the saints in *Dev Sarovar* of *Prasadi* in Jetalpurdham.

30. In the pious birth-place of Shree Hari-Chhapaiya, H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj rendering his services and supervising construction work of *Shikhar-baddha* temple.

31. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj used to perform *Darshan* of Shree Hanumangadhi in Ayodhya and used to listen to *Katha* daily.

32. Great is *Dharmakul*..... H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj offering the ornaments of the feet of his mother Shri Suvasini Bai to Sadguru Brahmanand Swami for construction work of Muli temple.

33. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing invocation ritual of Shree Hanumanji Maharaj at Narayanghat on the bank of Sabarmati in Ahmedabad.

34. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj granting the status of *Kaviraj* to the poet Shri Dalpatram in the *Sabha* of the saints and *Haribhaktas*.

35. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing invocation *aarti* of Shree Prabha-Hanumanji on the bank of place of *Prasadi-Prabha* Talawadi in Jamiyatpura village of North Gujarat.

36. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing invocation ritual of Shree Hanumanji in Naranpura, Ahmedabad.

37. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing invocation ritual of *Bal-Swaroop*










सन्मान





શિકાગો મંદિરમાં ધર્મકુળ વંદના મહોત્સવની સભા




Shree Kastabhanjandev on the pious place of *Prasadi* at Kankaria Ahmedabad where Shree Hari had performed *Chorasi*.

38. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing invocation *aarti* of Shree Hanumanji Maharj in Asarwa, Ahmedabad.

39. Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj singing *Kirtan* ***"Hari Mile Borsali Ki Chhaya"*** before Shree Hari while sitting under Borsali tree in Jetalpurdham.

40. Lord Shree Swaminarayan establishing *Dharmvanshi Acharyas* on both the *Gadis* of Ahmedabad (North) and Vadtal (South) in Vadtaldham.

41. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and the saints and the devotees performing pilgrimage for *Satsang*.

42. Bal-Swaroop H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj playing in the lap of his mother Shri Suvasini Bai.

43. Devotees of village Bamroli (Madhya Pradesh) performing bath to H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. The sanctified water reached upto the outskirts of the village. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performed pious milk ritual surrounding the outskirts of Bamroli and blessed the village: "***Anyone who passes away in the village, Lord Shree Hari will come to take the soul to His Akshardham, and I would accompany the Lord.***"

44. Observing a sign of *Padma* (lotus) in the feet of *Bal-Swaroop* Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, mother Shri Suvasini Bai is expressing her happiness and gratitude.

45. Shri Markandeya Rishi is performing *Naamkaran Samskara* of *Bal-Swaroop* Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj in Chhapaiyadham in the presence of *Dharmakul*.

46. Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performing *Kirtan-Bhakti* along with the saints daily and obtaining pleasure of Shree Hari.

47. Devotee young boy Kubersinh of Lucknow passed away in an accident while attempting to ride a horse on the occasion of invocation of idol images in Chhapaiya temple. At that time H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performed *Dhoon* of *'Shree Swaminarayan' Mahamantra* and granted him a New Life.

48. Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj established first ever *'Shree Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya'* in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad and followed the directions of Shree Hari given in *Shloka-132* of *'Shiksha-Patri'*.

OUR FUTURE FESTIVALS

Ashadh Vad-10 17/07/2009 Friday, Prakatyotsav of H.H. Lalji 108 Shree Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj shall be celebrated in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad.

Shravan Sud-15 05/08/2009 Wednesday, *Raksha-bandhan- Naliyeri Poonam*.

Shravan Sud-15 06/08/2009, Thursday, Mukutosav Poonam (There are two Poonam).

Shravan Vad-4 11/08/2009, Tuesday, Patotsav of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jaipur.

Shravan Vad-6 14/08/2009, Friday, *Shree Krishna Janmastmi*, and *Samiyo* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli.

15th August Indian Independence Day.

Shravan Vad-30 20/08/2009, Thursday, Amavasya Kushgrahni concluding ceremony of Shree Shiv-Poojan.

DARSHAN OF GOD IN GURU

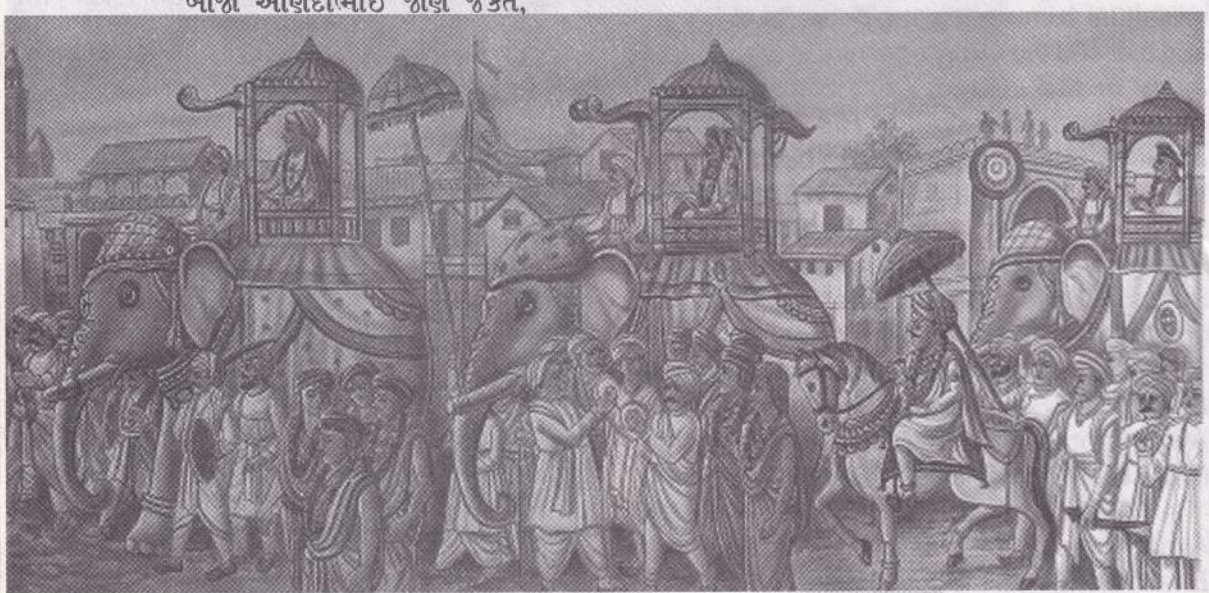
- Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar)

Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj of our Sampradaya was *Vachana-siddha*! In fact he was *Param-Siddha*. He had had constant vision of the Almighty Lord in all the three states of mind. He was a versatile personality and a poet with the heart of a devotee. Though he was on the highest seat of the *Sampradaya* yet he was benevolent towards each and every devotee of our *Sampradaya*. When he used to meet any devotee of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan, then he had pleasure of meeting a member of his own family.

Here is an incident about village Mansa. *Satsang* of Mansa was very impressive and effective. Even the Lord Shree Swaminarayan had graced the village Mansa. Pithubhai Darbar and Anadobhai Darbar were ardent devotee. They were also brave.

"મોટા પિથુભાઈ ભલા ભક્ત,
બીજા આણદોભાઈ જાણે જકત,
ભજે શ્રીહરિને ભલી પેર,
રાખી ઉઘાડી કરસમ શેર."

Once the devotee Shri Anadabhai Darbar was sick. His body weakened and his relatives presumed that now the devotee would not survive. Since Anadabhai was one of the leading devotees of *Sampradaya*, the news of his sickness spread everywhere in *Sampradaya* and a number of saints including leading saints and devotees. When H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj heard about it, he also graced the house of the devotee while riding on his chariot. Since devotee Anadabhai was not in a position even to sit in his bed, H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj came to his bed and stood in front of him. The devotee was very much pleased. He had had ***Darshan of God in Guru.*** He performed *Poojan* and *Vandan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj



asked the devotee whether he wanted to live in this world or to be in Akshardham. Then the devotee replied that, now he had no desire to live anymore in this world and asked for His blessings so that he can immediately have a place in Akshardham. The moment Acharya Maharaj H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj said, ***"Tathastu!"*** there was heard divine music of the musical organs from the sky and the Lord Shree Swaminarayan came there; all the devotees had a rare opportunity of *Darshan* of the Almighty Lord and took with Him the Soul of the devotee in *Akshardham*.

This whole incident was witnessed by Krishnanand Swami of Ahmedabad temple with his *Divine Vision* and thereafter the same was narrated to all the saints and devotees; not only this, the incident has also been referred to in '*Shree Harikathamrit*'.

There is another such incident of Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. There was a *Brahmin* devotee called Bhakta Narsinhbhai in Mansa. He was a ***Mukta-Atma*** and always used to remain engrossed in *Bhajan*, render his services to the saints and stay in the temple only.

"વળી ભજન ભક્તિમાં પુરા,
સાધુ સંતની સેવામાં સૂરા,
નામ નરસિંહ સહુજન કહે,
આઠે પહોર મંદિરમાં રહે."

Once H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was coming towards Gujarat from Chhapaiya. On the way he used to grant *Darshan* to the devotees of various villages. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj graced Chikhlod village near Lasundra. From Mansa, the devotee Shri Narsinhbhai came to Chikhlod to invite H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. It was night and the saints were performing *Katha* in the sabha. Maharaj was also there in the Sabha. Meanwhile Narsinhbhai stood up from the Sabha and went out to answer a call of nature. A poisonous snake was living there. The moment Narsinhbhai went there, the snake bite him and slipped away. Narsinhbhai shouted and the crowd thronged around him. Many people played various tricks to take out the poison from the body of the devotee Narsinhbhai. But Narsinhbhai refused to take any remedy and said that everything happens as per the wish of the Lord Shree Swaminarayan:

"હરિ ઈચ્છા હોય એમ થાય,
બીજો કોઈ ન કરશો ઉપાય.
એમ કહેતાં વિષ ચડી ગયું,
દેહભાન લેશ નવ રહ્યું."

Narsinhbhai was gasping heavily. Meanwhile H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and other saints came there from the Sabha and performed Dhoon of Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra. Acharya Maharaj prayed to the Almighty Lord and the Lord Shree Swaminarayan granted the devotee Narsinhbhai Divine Darshan; the next moment the devotee Narsinhbhai was hale and healthy. All the devotees hailed the Lord Shree Swaminarayan and H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj.

There are number of such incidents and real stories about H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, on whose prayer, the Almighty Lord may take the devotee to His Akshardham and on whose prayer, the Lord may also save the life of the devotee! So benevolent, Vachan-Siddha and Dhyan-Siddha was our Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. *Koti Koti Vandan* to our this Aadi Acharya on the occasion of His 200th *Janma-Jayanti*.

BLESSINGS OF DHARMKUL ON THE OCCASION OF '*DHARMKUL VANDANA MAHOTSAV*'

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

Those who availed the divine benefit of attending 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav', they all had the divine benefit of divine Darshan of Four Other Forms of the Lord Shree Hari and that also at one time! Not only that they also availed the benefit of divine blessings from all of them. This is a matter of great luck in the life of any devotee. In order that these blessings may remain in our permanent memory and those devotees of abroad, who could not participate in this Mahotsav, can also avail the benefit of these blessings in written form, I present herewith these rare blessings as an article. I hope that all the devotees would be benefitted from it.



(1) H.H. Shri Future Acharya 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj : Honourable saints and all other devotees of *Desh* as well as *Videsh*. On completion of 200 years of birth of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj this Utsav was celebrated. If we start cherishing the noble qualities of our Aadi Acharya then there cannot be end of it. The incident of scorpion tells us how ardent devotee our Aadi Acharya was towards the Almighty God! In spite of repeated biting by the poisonous insect, Acharya Maharaj was not moved from his *Sadhana*. Many devotees put aside the worship of the Almighty Lord, the moment they come across any difficulty in their life. Then he blames the Lord for his miseries. But whatever is done by the Almighty Lord, there is a purpose behind it. During this Utsav, many volunteers rendered their services with hard work and firm devotion. Their services have been credited in the Account with the Almighty Lord. We are grateful to the volunteers of each and every section. May the Lord Shree Narnarayandev keep all the Haribhaktas happy.

(2) H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj : Honourable saints and dear Haribhaktas! We heard the talks about the Miracles and greatness of our Dada. The narrator also referred to the incident that when our Aadi Acharya was serving the meals, then the saints and the devotees experienced that, the Lord Shreeji Maharaj was also serving along with Maharaj. What is the conclusion of it? All the Acharyas which have come on both the Gadis established by the Lord have tried to introduce the Almighty Lord only and not themselves. Even in the Kirtans which have been created by our Aadi Acharya, there is a conscious attempt to introduce our Lord Shreeji Maharaj and not himself. We have with us the autograph of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj wherein he has made

the signature as '*Ayodhyaprasadji Harikrishna*' as the adopted son of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj. For many years, Acharyas of both the Desh used to sit together. During those time, Anandprasadji Maharaj graced Ahmedabad; at that time Shri Bapuji was on the Gadi of Ahmedabad. At that time, in Ahmedabad after aarti, Jai of the Lord Shree Laxminarayan was not uttered. Acharyas of both the Gadi got together and unanimously declared in the Sabha that in both the temples of Vadtal and Ahmedabad Jai of both the Lord Shree Narnarayandev as well as the Lord Shree Laxminarayandev should be uttered. This tradition is still there in Ahmedabad temple. Many devotees may not have observed that in Muli temple after aarti after uttering Jai of all the deities, Jai of Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj is also uttered. For many years this is a tradition in Muli temple and till date it has continued. As a sweet memory of this Mahotsav, in all the temples with domes and all the Hari-temples of Ahmedabad Desh, Jai of our Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj should be uttered after aarti. It our feeling that, our this suggestion shall be implemented. We have many things of Prasadi of our Dada, which we intend to place in a small section of Museum. The seat on which our Dada was sitting when the incident of scorpion occurred, white turban and letters etc. shall be placed in a small section of the Museum. We have decided Falgun Sud-3 and 8th March 2011 as the Date of Inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. At that time, all the devotees including children and elders from abroad as well as Ahmedabad Desh shall come to celebrate the Mahotsav. In Kenya, a little child saved rupees from the money of chocolate and offered as service for the Museum. We are very happy even with small services. Every visitor of the Museum should feel that, there is also some contribution from me in this Museum. In 5th Vachanamrit of Jetalpur Maharaj has stated that, "All things happen as per the Wish and Words of the Almighty Lord" and at this time all things happen as stated in this Sabha. In this Sabha, both Acharayas are present and we request this Sabha that all devotees pray to Maharaj that our Museum may become the Supreme Museum- a kind of its own.



Inauguration festival of Bhuj temple would come in May-2010. We shall also celebrate this Mahotsav with great enthusiasm and fervor. The Almighty Lord also inspired the devotee Shri Govindbhai the owner of the land upon which we celebrated this 'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav' and therefore, he is going to donate

a piece of land for construction of temple. Let there may be unity, strength, love and respect in Satsang. Acharya and the saints respect one another. Similarly saints and the devotees also respect one another. This is a Sampradaya of Respect. All progress while keeping unity in Sampradaya and it is the prayer at the lotus like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev that blessings of the Lord Shreeji Maharaj may remain on all of us.

(3) Vadtal Shri Laxminarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. 1008 Acharya Shri Rakeshprasadj Maharaj : (First of all he addressed the whole Sabha as also H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj with the utterance of the divine words '*Jay Shree Swaminarayan*'). Perhaps this is the first *Mahotsav* of *Aadi Acharya* in respect of *Acharya-Pada*. We are very much pleased with it. The purpose behind this *Utsav* is to strengthen the principles of *Sampradaya* and thereby nourish our *Sampradaya*. Dharmdev Parivar came here and Maharaj established the seat of *Acharya* in this *Kul*. There must be some strong reasons behind it. There is great significance of this *Pada*. This is 7th Acharay of Ahmedabad Gadi. We are 9th Acharya of Vadtal Gadi. In all we are 16. No one can prove Maharaj wrong with the name of his father. Name of Aadi Acharaya is Ayodhyaprasadji, which indicates the resident of Ayodhya. Name of Acharya of Ahmedabad is Koshalendraprasadji. This name also indicated the resident of Ayodhya. Perhaps Maharaj may have decided that, during the tenure of Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and by his hands only, *Utsav* of Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj may be celebrated. This appears to be the wish of Maharaj.



While referring to the 3rd *Vachanamrit* of Ahmedabad, H.H. Shri Maharaj stated that: when Shuk Muni asked, "How can one please the Almighty Lord who does not have understanding and courtesy? Then Shreeji Maharaj replied, "*Are Mulji Brahmchari and Ratanji so prudent? But they are more concerned with benevolence and therefore they know to do such things with which the Lord remains happy. Moreover, even Paramhamsa and Sankhya-Yogi and Karma-Yogi Satsangi do not do things so decently as the residents of Ayodhya do with whom we are very much pleased because the residents of Ayodhya have devoted their whole life Satsang. So no one can live so ardent religious life as Ayodhyavasi. These people of Ayodhya are very trustworthy and any cunning man can cheat them easily. Therefore, if they want to perform any action then it shouldbe done after consulting Paramhamsa or any other great Satsangi devotee. Accordingly all Tyagi and Satsangi should take care of Ayodhyavasi, such are our directions.*"

Here during this Utsav, Tyagi-Gruhi all have implemented the directions of Maharaj and by rendering their services of mind, body and money they have not only put forward a praiseworthy example worthy to be emulated but they have also obtained the pleasure of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev as well as the Lord Shree Laxminarayandev. It is the humble prayer at the lotus like feet of Shreeji Maharaj that the Lord may grant happiness to all the volunteers and all the devotees.

(4) Shree Narnarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. 1008 Acharya Shree Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj : After addressing the Sabha, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj stated that, it was wonderful. There are blessings and mercy of Maharaj on all of us so that such a big Utsav could be celebrated in such a grand manner. We all have got together to please the Almighty Lord. We remember that, in Asarva Juni Vadi there was residence of Acharya Shree. At present there is Sahjanand Gurukul and Nirgundasji Swami is looking after it. There was a chariot of Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj and when we were young we used to climb upon the chariot and play. What a pleasure it was at that time! If we think about it then ! if we think about it then it appears that, during those time, Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj might be visiting the village riding on the chariot accompanied by a huge procession. This appears to be true and today we are happy because of this only. We are very much happy; there is nothing lacking in life; if at all there is, that is because of out nature and temperament.



We like one thing very much and we time and again refer it in our Sabha. A wealthy man was returning towards his home in his car. There was a green shady tree near his house. A miserable man was standing under the tree. He had no any expectation from this wealthy man. He was simply standing under the tree. The moment the wealthy man came, he saw the miserable man; he thought this man standing under the tree appears to be expecting something from me. The wealthy man went there and asked whether he had been expecting anything from him. The miserable man replied that he had no expectation from him and he was simply enjoying himself under the shady tree. The wealthy person thought that though this person is poor yet he is satisfied with himself. The wealthy man called his Munim and asked him to give Rs.300/- to that man; he further told his Munim that the same amount is to be given to him every month. That man was very much happy. Every month Munim used to give him Rs.300/- and the man used to return home happily with three hundred rupees.

In this way, many years passed. Once Munim was walking on the road. The man met him on the way and demanded his money from Munim. This time Munim gave him Rs.200/-. That man counted the money more than once; he verified his calculation and then asked Munim why did he give only Rs.200/-? Munim replied him that slack period was passing in the business of his boss; furthermore in near future, the daughter of the

boss was also to be got married and therefore it was the instruction of his boss to give him Rs.200/-. That man was now unhappy; the face which was earlier lit with satisfaction was now stained with desolation.

Now the answer of that man to Munim is worthy to be cherished. That man replied to Munim that he was not at fault for the slack period in the business of the boss. Furthermore if at all the wealthy person wanted to get his daughter married, then he should have done so with his own and not with his money. This man believed that now it was his money, which was in fact the money of the wealthy person.

Essence of this story is that, the constant flowing mercy of the Almighty Lord is believed by the man as his right. "At least I must get this much" becomes his attitude. But the merciful Almighty Lord keeps on giving us so many things. We were in search of the shade of tree. There was no scope of two hundred or three hundred rupees. But the Almighty Lord has granted us bungalow as also vehicle. We are indebted to the Lord Shree Swaminarayan for the air which we breathe in because without His Desire, even a leaf cannot move. There was no one like Him in the past, there is no one like Him in the Present and there would be no one like Him in future. We have our relations with such Lord, the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, the Lord Shree Laxminarayandev. The Lord Shree Swaminarayan is Father of all of us, He is the member of our family. He has left his native place Chhapaiya for us and has stayed here with us.

Can we leave our home or native place? Maharaj left one family and therefore here is created a family of lacs and crores of members. I do not remember much the names of my family can we leave our home or native place? Maharaj left one family and therefore here is created a family of lacs and crores of members. I do not remember much the names of my family but I do remember the names of saints, Kothari and Haribhaktas. A person in spite of not knowing the importance of the Lord and the devotees, if he cherished in his mind the belief that, this is our family then also Maharaj would be very much happy with him. Each and every devotee of Sampradaya has rendered services during this Mahotsav. A young boy of just 13-14 years, who earns by playing drum-beat on marriage functions in foreign, collected 300 dollors and rendered services for the Mahotsav. This is the Mahotsav of Aadi Acharya Shree Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj. We are much happy and satisfied. During this Mahotsav, a number of devotees, known and unknown, have rendered their services. Even the volunteers have rendered their services, knowing it their own Mahotsav, though no one insisted them for it. May the Lord Shree Narnarayandev fulfill the desire and wish of all the devotees."

At 2 o'clock H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj conducted a Special Sabha for the volunteers and blessed them as under : "All of you have remained in service for all the three days. We observed that, many of you could not come towards Sabha Mandap. Only very lucky devotees get such an opportunity to render such services. All of you have been rendering the services; you have also played a leading role in your villages in rendering services. Many leaders at village level have also rendered their services. Important thing for all of us is that, we have got the Lord Shree

Narnarayandev, we have got the Almighty Lord. In fact real happiness and peace of mind are not found anywhere else in this world. It is found at the lotus-like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. There is chaos everywhere else. If we hold the feet of the Almighty Lord with firm faith and devotion then let there may any type and kind of storm in our life, everything would be in order in the end.

We shall always keep in our mind that we have got the Almighty Lord. Maharaj has constructed the temples to help the devotees get emancipation. One likes it very much, if he is advised that, it would do if he does not perform *Mala everyday*. But in fact to perform Mala is very difficult. A devotee used to get the work of his farm done from the workers. Once he thought that all these workers would get emancipation if they perform Mala in stead of working in the farm. Therefore, the next day he directed all the workers that now they will not have to do any work in the farm; but they will have to perform Mala throughout the day and they would get the same salary which they were getting earlier.

The workers liked it very much. They thought that now they are relieved from the toiling on the farm in the severe heat under the open sky. They were very much happy. All of them started performing Mala. After 15-20 minutes, they were uneasy. They remembered their work of the farm. After some time, they could sit patiently. All of them went to the devotee and asked him to permit them to resume their work of the farm.

The Lord Shree Swaminarayan has opened the way of emancipation. Many people perform *Padyatra* barefooted. Many perform *Chandrayan, Parana, Tapa* and many other things. This is necessary but what is important is that, one should do those things in life with which the Almighty Lord remains happy.

This Sabha is the Sabha of our Home :

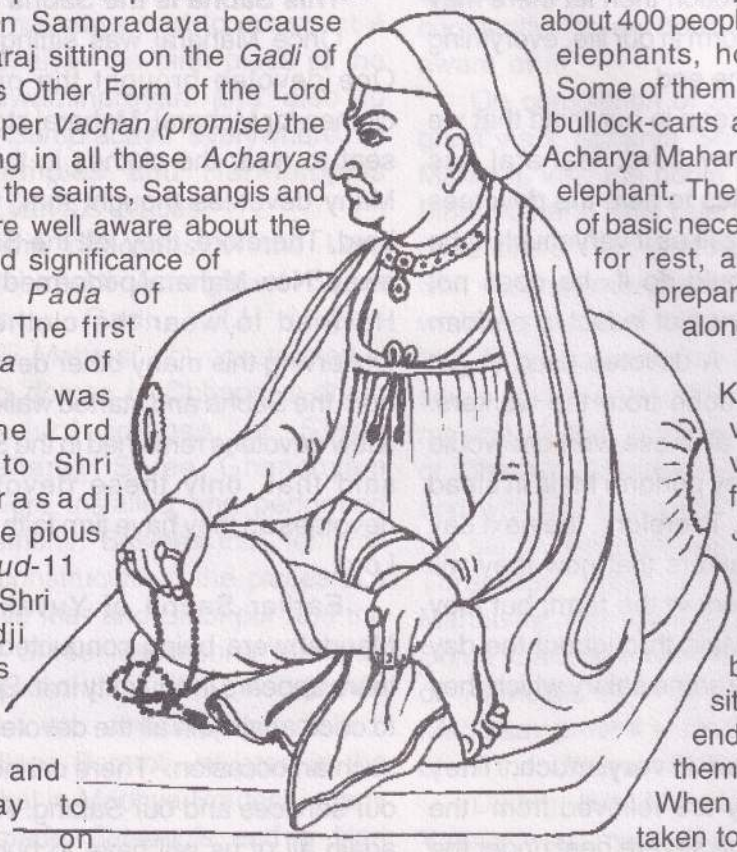
Once Maharaj was sitting in the sabha. One devotee brought the ornaments and clothes for Maharaj. Maharaj stood up from the seat to wear the clothes in the Sabha itselt. Many devotees thought that, this cannot be Lord. Therefore, they left the Sabha and went away. Now Maharaj performed another Leela. He tried to wear the clothes unusually. Observing this many other devotees stood up from the Sabha and started walking away. Only a few devotees remained in the Sabha. Maharaj said that, only these devotees are real devotees as they have firm faith in the Almighty Lord.

Earlier Sabha of Yuvak Mandal, Bal Mandal were being conducted regularly. But there appears irregularity in it. So an idea came to once again join all the devotees together on such an occasion. There cannot be an end to our services and our Satang. After some time again all of us will have to buckle ourselves, will have to start our work for conducting Sabha for Museum and at the time of celebration of the inauguration function of the magazine, each one of us will have to bring three more volunteers. It is an humble prayer at the lotus-like feet of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev that Maharaj may fulfill the desire and wish of all the devotees."

GREAT ACHARYA H.H. SHRI AYODHYAPRASADJI MAHARAJ

- **Prof. Suryakand Bhatt (Bhuj)**

Place of Acharya Maharaj is of great reverence and prime importance in Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya because Acharya Maharaj sitting on the *Gadi* of Sampradaya is Other Form of the Lord Shree Hari. As per *Vachan (promise)* the Lord is residing in all these *Acharyas even today.* All the saints, Satsangis and Haribhaktas are well aware about the importance and significance of this unique *Pada* of *Sampradaya*. The first ever *Pada* of *Sampradaya* was offered by the Lord Shree Hari to Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj on the pious day *Kartik Sud*-11 *Samvat* 1882. Shri Ayodhprasadji Maharaj was born on Jeth Sud-11 Samvat 1865 and passed away to Akshardham on Falgun Sud-7 Samvat 1924 at the age of 59 years. He remained on the seat of *Acharya* for 42 years. Dwwi-Janmashtabdi Mahotsav of Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhprasadji Maharaj was recently celebrated from 1st June 2009 to 3rd June 2009.



Once Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj graced Kachchh. He graced the village Mandi, Kala Taval, Dhamdka and Bhuj in Kachchh and from there he graced Gujarat. He was accompanied by the procession of about 400 people with the animals like elephants, horses and bullocks. Some of them were traveling on the bullock-carts and horses and Shri Acharya Maharaj was traveling on an elephant. There were all the things of basic necessities of life viz. tents for rest, and raw material for preparing meals, water etc. along with this procession. While returning from Kachchh, they came to village Ghatila. In the village were one farmer Haribhakt Jetha Patel and other devotees, who welcomed Acharya Maharaj. On the bank of the lake situated to the western end of the village, all of them took rest in the tents. When a decision was being taken to grace the village the next day, Shri Jetha Patel and other devotees requested with folded hands, "*Oh Maharaj, we have made preparations to offer you different 11 types of meals for 11 days. So it is our humble request to you to stay over here for 11 days and bless this village.*"

But the situation was quite different for the guests. Before long they had left Ahmedabad so mentally all of them were in a hurry to return

Ahmedabad. Furthermore there was no good source of drinkable water around the village and therefore it was a question to provide sufficient drinkable water to all. Furthermore the monsoon season was approaching as it was the month of *Ashadha*. In a small village, the water may be clogged and may create flood-like situation, which may damage the cattle as well as the people and then it would be very difficult to reach Ahmedabad safely.

At that time, H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj asked for the opinion of Shri Anandji Patel- the leader of the village. The devotee acknowledged that, it is a fact that there is scarcity of water in the village, but all the devotees of the village would work hard day and night to collect the water and would not cause any inconvenience to the guests. And he requested to stay there. But devotee Akhabhai Garasiya informed that the road leading to Kalavad was very slippery and a little rain would aggravate the situation of the road making it very difficult to go ahead.

Then H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharj replied him that, none should be worried as there would be no rain until they would perform Darshan of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev in Ahmedabad. He also informed that, those who were in hurry may go ahead but he would stay there as he could not displease so ardent devotees. He also informed the devotees that he was going to pray the Lord Shree Hari that the water of the only well of the village turn into sweet water and then there would be no difficulty for drinking water.

Next day in the morning, as a surprise for all, the water of the well turned into sweet water and all were astonished. This is great example that the Lord Shree Hari used to always remain with H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj, who remained in the village for 11 days, pleased all the devotees and at last returned Ahmedabad and performed Darshan of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev along with all other devotees. The moment they came out of the temple, there started a heavy rain in Ahmedabad. So truthful and powerful in his *Vachan* was H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj !

SHREE DHARMKUL VANDANA MAHOTSAV

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and as per such directions published in our '*Shree Swaminarayan*' Magazine, Haribhaktas performed Bhajan-Bhakti in each and every village of our Shree Narnarayandev Desh. The details of it are as under:

Bhajans performed by Bhakti Mahila Mandal of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur; Bapunagar Approach temple; Memnagar area; Bopal temple and Vadaj temple:

1,15,000	Mala
1,25,000	Jan-Mangal Path
301	Ghanshyam Bal-Charitra Path
108	Bhakta-Chintamani Path
51	Vachanamrit Path
200	Hari-Smruti Path
1,25,000	Vandu Path
1,25,000	Panchang Pranam
51,000	Pradakshina
200	Homatmak Mahapooja

Bhajan-Bhakti performed by Bhakti Mahila Mandal of Surendranagar of Muli Desh

1,25,000	Mala
1,25,000	Janmangal Path
11,000	Vandana Path
11,000	Panchang Pranam
201	Ghanshyam Bal-Charitra Parayan

GREATNESS OF OUR GURU ACHARYASHRI

- Shastri Abhayprakashdasji, Sadguru Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji (Narayanghat)



As per the Indian Scriptures, those who desire *Bhagwad*, will have to have a Guru in their life. Because 'Without Guru, knowledge of God is not possible and *Bhagwad* can also not be achieved", as the ancient Indian saying says. Therefore, in order that we do not have search for any Guru, the Lord Shree Swaminarayan has established Acharya as Guru of all the devotees.

When Saduguru Ramanand Swami decided to leave this Earth then he himself handed over the reins of *Dharma* to Shree Nilkanth-Varni and stated that:

"તમ વિના ધર્મધુર જેહ રે,
બીજા થકી ન ઉપડે તેહ રે."

Similarly when the Lord himself decided to leave this Earth then the Lord Himself handed over the reins of *Dharma* to Acharya:

"આપી ગાદી આચરજ કીધા,
તેને મંદિર દેશ વહેંચી દીધા."

Shree Viharilalji Maharaj writes,

"પૂછી સર્વને સંમતિ એવી, કેને ધર્મતણી ધુર દેવી,
ઉભા પશ્ચિમાભિમુખે નાથ, પાટ દક્ષિણમાં ડાબે હાથ,
તહાં બેસાર્યા શ્રી રઘુવીર, જાણી ધર્મ ધુરંધર ધીર.
પાસે ઉત્તરમાં બીજા પાટ, માંડેલી બીજા પુત્રને માટ,

ત્યાં અયોધ્યા પ્રસાદ બેસાર્યા, મહા ધર્મધુરંધર ધાર્યા."

Thus establishment of this *Pada* is not transfer of any *Raj-Gadi* but it is transfer of *Gadi* of *Dharma*. And a human soul is not capable of carrying on the responsibility of this *Gadi* of *Dharma*. However, strong and sturdy a human being can be, but it is not possible for him to carry on the responsibility of this *Gadi*. Only our *Dharmkul* is capable of doing it because it is supported by the strength of the Words of Shree Hari and accordingly he has been accomplishing this colossal task. In Vachanamrit-16 of Gadhada Middle Chapter it is stated that, the Lord is the Preserver of the *Dharma* and *Acharya* is the Other form of the Lord and therefore he is also called as the Preserver of the *Dharma*. Shree Hari has established him for the same purpose and therefore in order to remember this direction of the Almighty Lord, he is called as *Dharma-Dhurandhar.*

In Vachanamrit-11 of Vadtal, Shree Hari has stated that, "*We are always cautious that there may not be dishonour of the Lord, Bhakta of the Lord, Brahmin and the poor, otherwise it causes degenerates the human soul.*" As stated above, Acharya is the Other Form of the Almighty Lord and this is told by Lord Shree Hari himself. Furthermore he belongs to Brahmin family and that also the best family! Furthermore he is an ardent devotee of Shree Hari with a very mild and soft nature having humility with everyone.

Thus, a person having all these four qualities is worshipped. And even the Lord is cautious that none of the above four is dishonoured and therefore He is worthy to be worshipped ardently (*Param Pujya*).

Saduguru Shri Muktanand Swami says in his *Kirtan:*

"તેમ તેહના વાહન ન લેવાં,
જાણવા પૂજ્યા જેવા."

One can easily imagine that, how greatly he is honoured whose ornaments and vehicles are also worthy to be worshipped.

There is a tradition of writing the number '1008' before his name and it is suggestive of 'Shree' (suggestive of good). This word 'Shree' suggests both Laxmi (Wealth) as well as Bhakta of the Lord and its related *Pada* of Acharya.

Such a great Pada of Acharya was established by the Almighty Lord Shree Swaminarayan and as our *Guru*. It is a matter of great luck for all of us and therefore only just before few days, we all celebrated '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*' to please our Aadi Acharya 1008 Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Dada and obtained the pleasure of the Almighty Lord as well as our Guru.



Note :- In this Special Issue of '*Dharmakul Vandana Mahotsav*' we have not been able to publish *Satsang Samachar* (News) and articles of *'Satsang Bal Vatika'*, *'Bhakti-Sudha'* etc. which shall be published in the next regular issue of August-2009. - *Editor*

PARAYAN IN CHICAGO ON THE OCCASION OF DHARMKUL VANDANA MAHOTSAV

- Vasant Trivedi (Chicago)

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj and under the guidance of Shastri Swami Hariprasaddasji and J.P. Swami, a Three-Day Parayan of Leela-Charitra of Shree Hari and Life of Aadi Acharya H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj was organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Itarka, Chicago on the occasion of *Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsa.* From 12th March to 15th March 2009, this Parayan was organized in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj with Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) as spokesperson.

With a view that *'Dharmkul Vandana Mahotsav'* may be celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm and Haribhaktas may render befitting services and obtain the pleasure of the Lord Shree Hari, Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Mahant of Kalupur Swaminarayan temple), Shastri Swami Narayanvallabhdasji, Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Shri Dev Swami had arrived from India along with H.H. Shri Achrya Maharaj.

The devotees and *Satsangis* of Chicago grabbed the opportunity in the *Sabha* of the learned saints and took up the divine words of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharj and thereby obtained His pleasure. From each and every member of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal up to all the devotees did not miss this opportunity to render their services on this occasion.

In connection with this *Mahotsav*, a grand *Satsang Sabha* was organized on 30th May in the temple. With perseverance of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, this temple has become into existence and with the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Satsang is strengthening day by day. An humble prayer to the Almighty Lord that, *Dharmkul* may always remain pleased with the devotees and *Satsangis* of this temple.

To all the Satsangi Haribhaktas

All the devotees and Haribhaktas know it very well that this *Satsang* established by Shree Hari has now spread all over the world. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has been performing pilgrimage of many countries all over the world for propagation and strengthening of this *Satsang*. Many devotees are residing in America, England and Africa and there are many temples of our Sampradaya in these countries.

From some time, many children of our Satsangi Haribhaktas have settled in Australia. Earlier H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has graced Australia for Satsang and he is again going to visit Australia for the same purpose after the festival of *Dusshera* this year. Therefore, whenever H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj is on the pilgrimage of Australia, in order that the devotees, Haribhaktas and children of our Haribhaktas may be informed about the pilgrimage of Acharya Maharaj and they may avail the benefit of Darshan, it is considered to prepare a database.

Therefore it is an humble suggestion to all the Haribhaktas and devotees to furnish the details of their children studying or staying in Australia (as per the following format) so that they can also avail the benefit of *Satsang*.

In the pious service of Shree Narnarayandev Pithadhipati H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj

My name is _____.
I stay at _____.
My contact number is _____.
My child _____ **stays at** _____.
His contact number is _____ **in Australia.**
E-mail ID is _____.
Whenever you grace there, please bless him.

The above information may be furnished in the office of 'Shree Swaminarayan' Magazine at the following address:

Office of 'Shree Swaminarayan' Magazine
Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Kalupur,
Ahmedabad-380 001 Gujarat, India.
Or Nana P.P. Swami may be contacted on 98250 31877.
Or you may also send an e-mail at **ram23799@yahoo.co.in.**

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