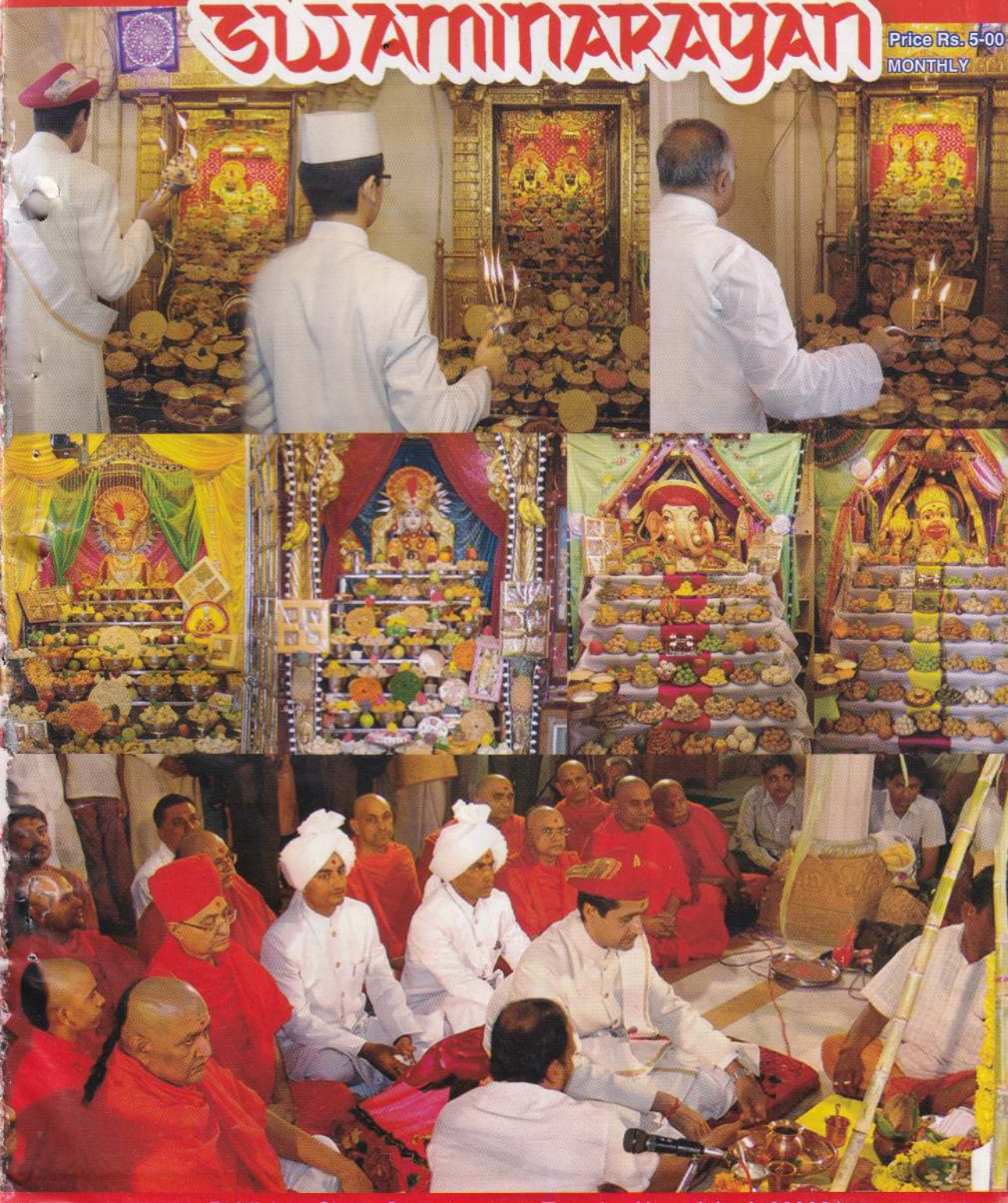
Volume 43-44 • November-December - 2010

SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

Price Rs. 5-00
MONTHLY





Jetalpur



Muli



Naranghat



Idar



Stredham



Cleveland



Leicester



Atlanta



Sydney



Toronto



Sine Mension



Chicago



SHREE
SWAMINARAYAN

Official News-letter from Shri Narnarayandevdesh Diocese

Vol : 4 No : 43-44 November-December-2010

CONTENTS

1.	EDITORIAL	02
2.	APPOINTMENT DIARY OF H.H. ACHARYA MAHARAJSHRI	03
3.	SHIKSHAPATRI	5
4.	DARSHANAM	9
5.	ONE SHOULD NOT STEAL ANYTHING	11
6.	EVERYDAY IS DIWALI	13
7.	MIRACLES IN THIS KALIYUG	14
8.	KARTIK SUD-11 IS PIOUS DAY TO REMEMBER DHARMA	15
9.	'KUT KAVYA' OF H.H. SHRI ACHARYA MAHARAJ SHRI DEVENDRAPRASADJI PANDE- THE GREAT POET AND LINGUIST OF VRAJBHASHA AND SANSKRIT LANGUAGES	16
10.	LIFE SWAMI NITYANAND	18
11.	ON THE OCCASION OF 125TH PATOTSAV OF RANGMAHOL SHREE GHANSHYAM MAHARAJ	20
12.	CELEBRATION OF DIPOTSAVI AND ANNAKUTOTSAV IN BHUJ BY SHREE SAHJANAND SWAMI	22
13.	CELEBRATION OF 38TH PRAKATYOTSAV OF H.H. SHRI ACHARYA MAHARAJ IN IDAR	23
14.	CREATION OF NIRVIKALP UTTAM PADA	25
15.	PILGRIMAGE OF H.H. SHRI ACHARYA MAHARAJ TO AUSTRALIA	26
16.	PILGRIMAGE TO BADRINARAYAN-KEDARNATH IN PIOUS COMPANY OF H.H. SHRI MOTA MAHARAJ	28
17.	SATSANG SURBHI	30
18.	SATSANG BALVATIKA	32
19.	BHAKTI-SUDHA	34
20.	NEWS	39

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

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

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

Controlling Editors & Publishers
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji MAHANT
SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE
Kalupur, Ahmedabad-1.
Phone : 22132170, 22136818
Karbhari office : 22121515.
Fax : 22176992.
www.swaminarayan.info
www.swaminarayan.in

Editorial & Subscription Address
Shri Swaminarayan
Shri Swaminarayan Temple
Kalupur, AHMEDABAD-1 (INDIA)

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

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

सम्पादकीयम् EDITORIAL

Nutan Varshabhinandan (Happy New Year) and Jay Shree Swaminarayan to all the members, readers and writers of 'Shree Swaminarayan' magazine.

May this New Year of Samvat 2067 bring all Happiness and Pleasure and Health to you and your family. May your family progress with unity and peace in all spheres of life. All must do in this New year is to worship the Lord Shree Swaminarayan. It is an humble prayer at lotus like feet of the Lord that our faith in the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev may be strengthened and progressed like anything.

The divine aim of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj of 'Shree Swaminarayan Museum' and its inauguration function will be celebrated on the pious day of Patotsav Mahotsav of Shree Narnarayandev on Falgun Sud-3 8th March 2011. Many devotees from all over the world will avail the benefit of this divine Mahotsav.

If we have missed to render our services then still there is time. Since we have got this rare opportunity to render our services, we should not miss it any cost. May Almighty Shree Hari bless all the devotees.

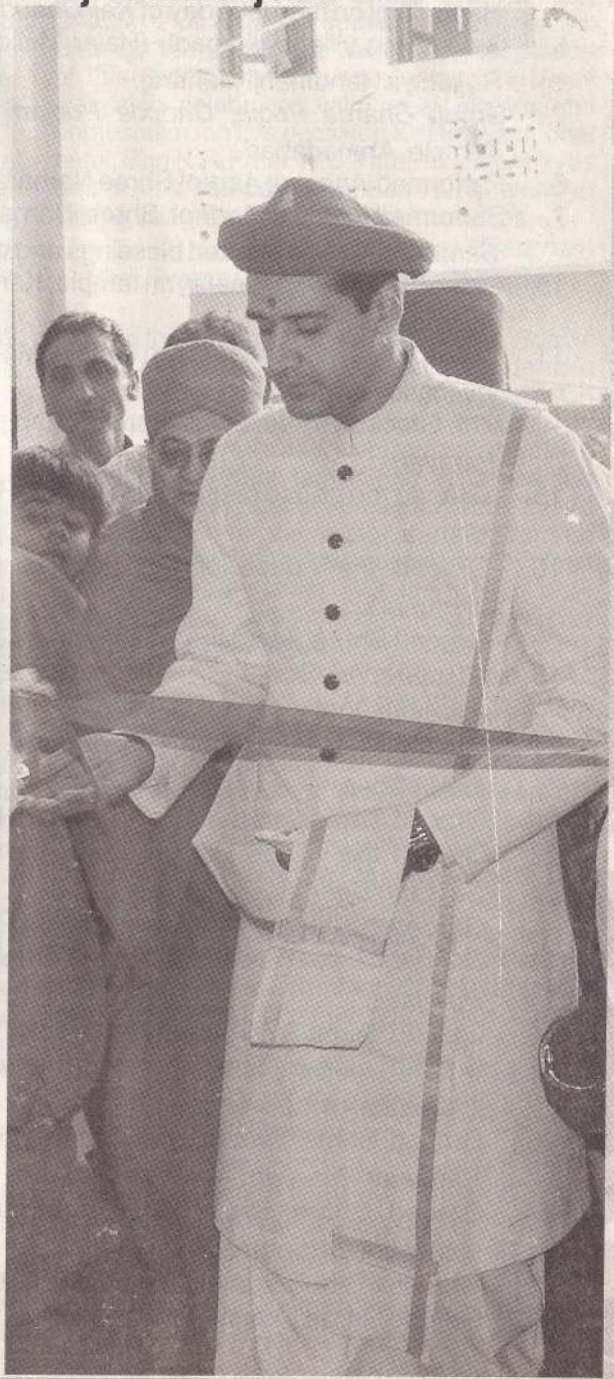
Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

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

(OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-2010)

3. Graced Shree Swaminarayn temple, Unava, on the occasion of Mahapooja.
5. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Jayantibhai Narsibhai Patel, Memnagar.
8. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Rajendrabhai Thakarsibhai Patel, Memnagar.
9. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Dhirubhai Pachabhai Patel, Satellite.
10. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kanubhai Kurjibhai Patel, Bapunagar.
    Graced the inauguration function of factory of the devotee Shri Gandalal Kalidas Patel (Gulabpurwala), Santej
14. Graced the inauguration function of Show Room of the devotee Shri Prakashbhai Ambalal Prajapati, C.G. Road.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Arvindbhai Haribhai Dholariya, Bopal, on the occasion of *Hariyaag*.
15. Graced Aksharmahol Vadi, Jetalpurdham on the occasion of *Shree Saraswati Poojan* of Shree Swaminarayan Sanskrit Mahavidhyalaya,
16. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kiritbhai Ramanbhai, Ranip.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Rajeshbhai Vitthalbhai Shah, Shilaj.
17. Celebrated 38th Prakatyotsav alongwith Satsang Samaj in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Idar.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Bhikhabhai Vihidas Patel (Dangarvawala), Sola road.

19th October to 3rd November Pilgrimage to Australia



(November-2010)

4. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria, on the occasion of *poojan* of Shri Hanumanji on the pious day of *Kali Chaudas*.
5. Graced the village Jiragadh (Halar Mulidesh) on the occasion of *Patotsav* of Shri Rokadiya Hanumanji Maharaj.
   Group *Sharda Pooja, Chopda Poojan* was performed in Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad.
6. Performed *Annakut Aarti* of Shree Narnarayandev in Ahmedabad temple.
7. Performed *Mangla Aarti* of Shree Narnarayandev on the pious New Year Day of *Samvat* 2067 and granted blessings and divine *Darshan* to Saints and *Haribhaktas*.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria on the occasion of *Abhishek* of Shree Hanumanji.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mota Ankevalia (Muli Desh) on the occasion of invocation of idol images.

12 to 14 Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Haridwar, on the occasion of *Katha-Parayan*.

15. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Rameshbhai Kachabhai Mangaldas Patel, Mansa.
16. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Jitbubhai Magallal Liladhar Soni, Jivrajpark.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jivrajpark on the occasion of *Katha*.

18 to 20. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhuj (Kachchh) on the occasion *Parayan*.

21. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kaligam on the occasion of invocation of idol images.
    Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria.
22. Graced the village Dungri (Idar Desh) on the occasion of *Shobha Yatra* and *Satsang Sabha*.
    Graced the house of the devotee Shri Prakashbhai J. Patel, Thaltej.
23. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Surendranagar on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
24. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vavol on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
25. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mubarkpura, on the occasion of invocation of idol images.
26. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple (ladies), Viramgam, on the occasion of *Patotsav-Parayan*.
27. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jivrajpark, on the occasion of re-invocation of idol images.
29. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Mehulbhai Soni, Naranpura.
30. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Salal, on the occasion of *Katha*.

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts
(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri Arthadipika)
By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 41

Those of my Brahmin, Kshatriya and Vaishya disciples who have Been initiated into the devotion of Shree Krishna by their Guru Shall always wear around their neck a double Kanthi prepared From Tulsi wood and shall mark their forehead, chest and both Arms with a Tilak.

Shatanand explains: ***Krushnadikshamiti Guroh a Gurupadsthadharmavamshyabrahmanta*** – Diksha or initiation should be given by the Brahmin Guru established from the family of Dharma (Dharma Vamsa). Krushna Diksha is – initiation via Mantra, marking the body, discipline and instruction – Krushnasya Diksha Mantrarrchaniyamopadeshadilakshana – thus initiation into a Sampradai is much more than one realizes.

After initiation, one should follow the code of conduct as stipulated by the Acharya and one should pay homage to their Acharya by offering worship to such great personage. Shatanand says that one has the right to worship God, only after initiation.

Vignaan Upanishad explains the qualities of a worthy Guru, 'One who has control over his senses, who is pure and pious, of high intellect or wisdom, full bodied, who himself follows Dharma, and whose mind, speech and body is employed to protect and comfort those I need.'

Shatanand adds that even though he may be a Dharma Vamsi, if he is not a true Vishnu Bhakta, he can never be considered a Guru. Thus, one does not have automatic Acharya/ Guru status through birth into Dharma family. **Narad Panchratra** explains, 'Even if a person is born in an illustrious family of devotees, has performed many Yagnas and has deep knowledge of the Vedas, he can never be considered a Guru if he is termed an Avaishnava (against Vaishnav beliefs – religious devotion to Vishnu), initiation by an Avaishnav will never lead one to salvation or Mukti. Therefore it is extremely important that will never lead one to salvation or Mukti. Therefore it is extremely important that we initiate into a worthy Sampradai, headed by a worthy Guru/ Acharya.

Now Shatanand explains the greatness of Shree Krishna Matra and therefore its use in the initiation ceremony. **Gautamiya Tantra's** very first chapter explains, 'Of the many Mantras, Ganapati, Shiva and Devi, Vaishnav (Vishnu) Mantras are the best. Of the many Vaishnav mantras, Shree Krishna Mantra is supreme and will derive the greatest of fruits.'

Diksha illuminates one's knowledge and washes away delusion and uncertainty. Such is the power of Diksha explains saints. Therefore Diksha should always be Vaishnavi. **Abhidhanchintamani** explains: ***Diksha Tu Vratsangaha*** – 'Diksha is the acceptance of Vrata (religious and moral vows).'

Shatanand explains that Dwijas (twice born) should all obtain Diksha. Dwijas here are Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Vaishyas as they are all 'twice-born', once through birth (via their mother) and secondly through the acceptance of Yagnopavit (sacred thread) via their Guru.

Now Shatanand explains in detail what Diksha is and what it entails. Firstly, it is devotion for God; 'Those who develop Bhakti Yoga for Vasudeva Narayan find no other better path for salvation.' 'Brahma, pondering over the Vedas three times, came to the conclusion that there is no other path better than that of Bhakti.'

All have the right to Bhakti of God and all should do so, as it is one's duty to do so. **Padma Purana's Uttar Khanda** explains, 'Without Diksha everything is useless. Those who obtain Vaishnavi Diksha and devote themselves to Vishnu are satiated. Others without Diksha just burden the Earth.'

Brahmins alike should devote themselves to Shree Krishna. Seeing the Gopis devotion for Shree Krishna, they said in the **Bhagwat**, 'Shame on us, our knowledge, our birth, our vows, our dynasty and our action, because we have lived away from Paramatma. These women do not have the family heritage of a

Dwija, they have lived without a Guru, they do not have penance, nor knowledge of the should, they do not possess purity and do not have merit of action, however they do possess unswerving devotion for Yogeshwar Paramatma Shree Krishna. We (Brahmins) possess all of the above qualities, yet are devoid of such Bhakti for God. Even a low born Shudra or sinful person' Chandal with such Bhakti is superior than a Brahmin devoid of Bhakti as such a Chandal is able to purify his whole family.' Therefore all should derive Diksha into the Bhakti for Shree Krishna. ***Yuktamevoktamityalam Vistarera-*** What more needs to be said?

To clarify, Diksha or initiation is of two types. First Samanya Diksha – ordinary, which is given to all Satsangis. All should receive this Diksha by their respective Acharya. At such time the Acharya will give the Shree Krishna Ashtakshar (Guru) Mantra – ***Shree Krushnam Tvam Gatirmama***, which should be chanted daily to signify one's devotion and service to God and your allegiance to a Guru. During the initiation ceremony the Acharya will place around your neck a double Kanthi (rosary beads) and mark your forehead.

Secondly, *Bhagwati Diksha* is given to those who wish to live a life of sainthood. It is for those who have unswerving faith and dedication for God and who are willing to follow the path of renunciation where they renounce all worldly pleasures and attachments to singularly serve the Lord and his Satsang. The Mantra –***Brahmaham Krushna Daasoasmi*** is given to such aspirants.

Diksha is a very important as already mentioned. It is a mark of belonging to a sect or Sampradai. It shows faith, dedication and allegiance for one Guru and devotion go God. It is something that is often taken lightly but all should realize its significance and should act in accordance with the Acharya's and Sat-Shastra's commandments once initiated.

Now, ***Praaptaustulsimalike Gale*** – One should wear a Tulsi Mala around one's neck. It should be a double Kanthi to signify Jugal Upaasna or the Bhakta-Bhagwan relationship. A Mala made from Tulsi is used, as it is sacred in all ranks of Hinduism for its purity and auspiciousness. Shatanand explains that Vaishnavas should specifically make sure that they wear the Mala to show their love and affection for God –***Vaishavena Visheshera Bhagvatpritivardvani.***

Padma Purana explains the consequence of not wearing a Mala, 'Such persons are consumed by fire and fall to the Hells.' Even the Vedas command the wearing of Kanthi – 'One should, like Yagnopavit wear a Tulsi Mala always.' Padma Purana explains the consequence of not wearing the Kanthi:

"Na Cha Yasya Pashoha Karashte
Tulsimalika Bhavet |
Tasyanam Maissasham Jalam Cha
Madirasaman ||"

'The food and water of those who do not wear a Tulsi rosary is considered as meat and liquor.'

The Tulsi Mala should be worn always and never taken off for any reason. In some instances it is forbidden to wear the Mala during eating, sleeping and answering the call of nature, but Shatanand explains that this is for Malas which have not been offered to Shree Vishnu. **Padma Purana** explains, 'During Pooja, Dhyaana (meditation), Sandhya (morning rituals) and during all daily activities, the Tulsi Mala should be wornh. The Lord adores those who do.' The same Shastra also explains that the Mala should not be renounced even when answering the call of nature as, 'By so doing the Mala does not become impure for it is *Brahmrupirni* – the form of God', explains the **Garuda Purana**.

Also, 'One should not wear a Mala which is made out of unfragranced wood or plants except for God.' Now Shatanand explains the significance of a double rosary: Radhakrushnavya Jugalsvarupopas – thus it personifies the Jugal or twin devotion for Radha and Krishna. It shows the bond between Radha and Krishna, of Bhakta nd Bhagwan, Swami and Sevak or Jiva and Shiva. The Mantra canted when adornig the Tulsi Mala is given in Vishnu Purana:

Tulsikashtasambhutemale
Vishnujanapriye |
Bibharmi Tvamaham Karashte Kuru Mam
Krushnavallabham ||

'O rosary made of Tulsi, which is adored by all Vaishnavas! I place thee around my neck. Grant that I be fond of Krishna and I wear thee.'

The Kanthi is indeed another sigh of initiation into a Sampradai. During the initiation ceremony the Acharya will place a Kanthi around one's neck, thus making the aspirant a

fully-fledged Bhakta.

Note that Diksha and wearing a Kanthi doesn't mean that a person is a true Bhakta. We have to prove our worthiness. Such things merely are a step towards Bhakta Bhava as they allow one to become a repository for Punya through pious acts. Indeed those that do not adorn such signs are not worthy of any benefits of such action. Together with Diksha, we must obey the commandments given by the Acharya to follow the path of Bhakti, never to renounce Dharma and to observe always the 'Panchavratamaan' – the five eternal vows of abstinence of liquor, flesh, thieving, adultery, and intoxicants.

The Kanthi is in itself a destroyer of sin. It is said that the Yama Dootas (servants of the God of Death) do not even come close to those who wear a Kanthi. It is considered so great that it is forbidden to eat or drink without the Tulsi Mala as to do so would be to partake in flesh and liquor.

Many site the analogy of a dog without a dog collar. Such a dong is considered a stray and without an owner. Such dogs are rounded up by dogcatchers, locked up and eventually put to death. In the same way, a person without a Kanthi is a stray, who will inevitably be rounded up by the Yama Dootas, and sent to Hell where they will be subject to torture for their sinful acts.

Indeed by simply wearing a Kanthi, a person absorbs the pious qualities of the Kanthi which causes a person to act in a more righteous way, the Mal and Tilak also act as limitations to prevent a person from acting sinfully. For example, once adoring the Kanthi, a Satsangi should think to himself that he is a Bhakta and also should not eat anything contrary to one Vedic teachings, thus nothing inedible should be passed through the Kanthi which is worn around the neck etc.

Finally let us consider in detail the Tilak: ***Dharye Nityam Chordhvapundram Lalatadau Dvijuatibhiha*** – one is to daily mark the forehead and other parts of the body (both arms and chest) with the Urdvapundra Tilak (an erect marking). Shatanand explains that those who do not mark their body in this way have no rights to the fruits of their actions. ***Nirnyasindhu of Bruhannaradiya Purana*** explains. '*Yagnas (sacrifices), Dana (donations), Japa (praise), Homa (offerings), Svadhyaya (Vedic study)and Shraadh (offerings to dead ancestors)* all bear no fruits, if performed without the Urdvapundra marking.'

Padma Purana explains, 'Those who wear the Urdvapundra and perform Shraadh ceremony receive the fruits of performing ten million such Shraadh ceremonies over millions of years gone by.'

Here Shatanand explains that the Urdvapundra is accepted as the best. He explains that other markings such as Tripundra can be somewat frighterning. Vrudh Parashara writes, 'The Urdva should be worn but not the Tripundra as the ancestors become uneasy by the sight of it.'

Brahman Purana explains:

Urdhvapundram Dwijaha Kuryat
Kshatriyastu Tripundrakam \|
Ardhachandram Tu Vaishyanam Vartulam
Shudrajatishu \|\|

'Brahmins should wear the Urdvapundra, Kshatriyas the Tripundra, Vaishyas the ARdhachandra and Shudras, a circular Tilak.'

Thus a Tilak should be work by all. Due to the greatness of Urdvapundra, **Padmota Khanda** explains, 'The Urdhvapundra is not prohibited for anybody and so even Vishnu devotees who are Kshatriya should wear the Urdhvapundra.' In this manner, all Vaishnavas regardless of caste have a right to wear the Urdhvapundra. However, Shatanand explains that devotees of Lord Shiva should mark the Tripundra on their forehead with white ash. Thus by no means should a devotee of Shiva abandon their Tripundra.

Lord Swaminarayan says, '*Lalatadau*' – thus implying that the forehead and others (i.e. arms and chest) should be marked. Brahmcharis should additionally mark their neck.

Urdhvapundra Dharanvada explains: ***Urdvapundradharanadikam Vaishnavanam sadharanalingam-*** 'The Urdvapundra and others are the prominent signs of a Vishnu Bhakta.' Therefore all should wear such signs and never be afraid to show their devotion go God. It is written, 'Urdvapundra Tilak, Tulsi Mala and worship of Shaligraam are the signs of a true Vaishnav.'

It is necessary to clarify exactly what an Urdvapundra Tilak is and what is represents. It is, like the Tulsi Mala, a sign of Vishnu Bhakti. It is the very form or 'foot print' of God. It also is 'Jugal Upaasna' representing both Radha and

Krishna or Laxmi and Narayan. By wearing the mark we are advertising our faith and devotion in the Lord and also as it is his 'foot print' on the forehead, it shows that we are eternally his servant.

The Tilak mark is to be worn by all and not exclusively for followers of Lord Swaminarayan. It should be worn daily and in all four parts of the body during Poja Vidhi. The Tilak mark which is U-shaped made from Gopichandan shall be made on the forehead whilst chanting the Mantra ***Ohm Vasudevaiya Namah***. Then the centre of the chest shall be marked whilst chanting ***Ohm Shankarshanaiya Namah,*** the right arm whilst saying ***Ohm Pradyumnaiya Namah*** and finally the left arm whilst saying ***Ohm Annirudhaiya Namah.*** After which the Kum-Kum Chandlo should be marked in the centre of the Tilak on the forehead by chanting ***Ohm Shree Laxmine Namah.***

These markings serve a double purpose in that the forehead mark also provides a basis for development of the mind and intellect. It purifies the mind and brings strength of intellect. The mark on the chest brings health and vitality. The marks on the arms save oneself from acting unscrupulously as sins are often committed by one's hands. Hence purity of action is derived. The Mantras above represent the various aspects of God, by chanting them we are invoking all such forms to reside within us.

The Tilak-Chandlo and double Kanthi are the essence of true Vaishnavism. They are the essence of Jugal Upasna of Bhakta and Bhagwan. They represent the bond between God and oneself. To renounce either would be to renounce the bond between God and oneself and for such reason it is important that these Vaishnav signs are continued and not renounced through fear, criticism or any other supposed obstacle.

I have recently observed what I feel to be bad practices. The first is with regard to some of the Kanthis I have seen. People have begun to accessories the Kanthi as if it is a fashion accessory. Many wear only a single Kanthi like a 'choker', whilst others wear a three stringed Kanthi which is platted together. These may look very good but are contradictory to our Vedic teachings. Indeed any aim to make the Kanthi somehow decorative is usually incorrect.

Another style is to mount the Kanthi on Gold. This may be arguably correct as the use of Gold has been ordained but I feel that it somehow takes away the humbleness and simplicity of a Kanthi. Often they look like a fashionable necklace rather than a Kanthi anyway. I really do feel that the traditional double Kanthi is unique and looks much better than any of these gimmicks to make it fashionable.

The second fashion accessory is the Chandlo. This is particularly the case for women who use 'stick-on' Chandlas. They come in many different shapes, sizes, designs and colors to match their dress.

Our Shastras give precise instructions to how these markings should look and what they should be made with. Indeed I feel that to call them 'Chandlo' would be wrong. I do not mean to attack women in any way but I felt it necessary to clarify this point, as it is desirable to confirm to the teachings of our Shastras and Rishis. In the true sense, the Chandlo should be made with Kum-Kum and nothing else.

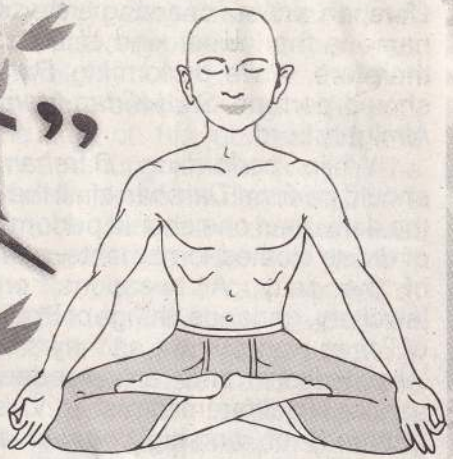
These markings of God- the visible signs of a devotee of God are significant and important and so it is the duty of all to raise themselves beyond all obstacles, and adorn these signs. Not only is it dutiful but there is great benefit in doing so. One can almost feel the presence of the Lord when one wears such markings. It seems to me that a forehead without a Tilak is somewhat dim. It gives no luster to a face, whereas those with a Tilak look so much livelier. It brings beauty to a face. It complements a forehead so well. It seems as though the forehead was designed in this way so that it could be used to adorn this symbol of God.

Offering *Bhet* of *Rajat-Suvarna Tula* on the occasion of *Shree Swaminarayan Museum*

In order to offer *Bhet* of *Rajat-Suvarna Tula* organized by Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat, on the occasion of Shree Swaminarayan Museum, for *Haribhaktas* of Vadaj area have been given receipt book in Vadaj temple. Similarly for *Haribhaktas* of Ranip area, receipt book is given in Ranip temple and for *Haribhaktas* of Shahibaug area, receipt book is given in Naranghat temple, which may please be noted by all *Haribhaktas*.

"दर्शनम्"

Darshanam



- Sadhu Purushottamprakashdas (Jetalpurdham)

Performing Darshan of Parmatma is the best method in Vedic rituals of worshipping. By performing pilgrimage of holy and religious places and by performing Darshan of the deities daily in the temple yield their fruits. To go to the temple to perform Darshan is not merely a daily chore to be performed mechanically; it is a process of internal purification and transformation by transcending human body, wealth, reputation and status– an essential stage to go to Almighty Lord! Performing *Darshan* is not any bodily movement like standing, sleeping or eating. Curiosity and eagerness are accompanied with the act of performing Darshan despite the fact that we perform *Darshan* everyday. In fact on each day this curiosity and eagerness keep on increasing. If we visit any temple which comes on the way to our journey then it is merely a formal visit. Even while entering the temple premises one should follow certain protocols. First of all one should perform Darshan of Dhwaj- flag- hoisted at the top of the dome of the inner temple. One should not enter the temple premises while sitting in a vehicle. One should touch the stair-steps of the temple piously, while ardently chanting the name of the deities; if we come to the temple in a vehicle then we should step down from it outside the temple and enter the premises while walking. While stepping on the stair-steps, one should beg pardon of the deity Indra, as the last steps is considered to be the Lord Indra Himself.

The manner of performing *Darshan* in the temple is described in Sarangpura Vachanamrit-2 :

"While performing Darshan of the deities in the temple, one should perform it with utmost concentration; and one should look here and there while performing Darshan. When one performs Darshan of the Deity with full concentration one achieves the state of Siddha."

Even in Sarangpur-5, Shree Hari has stated that:

सकृत्मनःकृष्णापदारविन्दयो निवेशितं
तद्गुणरागि यैरहि ।
न ते यमं पाश भृतश्य तद् भक्तान् स्वप्नेऽपि
पश्यन्तिहि चीर्णनिष्कृताः भा.द्र/१/९९

In *Ajamil Akhyan* of 6th Skanda of *Shrimad Bhagwat* it is stated that, if one ardently performs *Darshan* of deity with his eyes, then he cannot be frightened by *Yamraja* or *Yamdut* even in his dreams. In *25th Adhyay of 3rd Skanda* it is stated that, to perform *Darshan* along while chanting Mantra is the best kind of *Darshan*, to perform *Darshan* while chanting name is

Medium kind of *Darshan* and to perform *Darshan* without chanting either *Mantra* or name is the lowest kind of *Darshan*. And therefore, while performing *Darshan* one should perform *Stuti-Kirtan-Mantra* of the Almighty Lord.

While performing *Darshanam*, one should perform *Darshan* of all the organs of the deity then one should perform *Darshan* of divine clothes, ornaments, garlands etc. of the deity. All weapons, ornaments, jewellery, garlands, things of Pooja of Form of Shree Hari divine – as they are *Mukta* of *Akshardham* and are rendering their services in different forms. In *Vaishnav Riti* (method) of worship, *poojan* of all the weapons, ornaments and divine things is performed. In Badrinath temple on the *Himalayas*, *poojan* of all the divine clothes, ornaments and jewelry is performed before they are offered to the deity. One should not move away from the idol image of the deity until one gets divine *Darshan* in his heart. Moreover, while performing divine *Darshan*, one gets rid of evil effects prevailing upon him, if any.

दर्शनं तवलोकस्य सर्वथाधहरं परम् । it is stated in Shrimad Bhagwat Mahatmya that divine Darshan of Almighty Lord is capable of absolving of all the sins.

If we are not careful in the temple while performing divine Darshan, then we commit many sins inadvertently and therefore, we should be very careful and should perform *Darshan* in accordance with the methods prescribed by the Scriptures. And if becomes careless in it, then he invites wrath of the deity. According to the Puranans, one can commit 32 types of sins. These sins are : to go to temple while sitting in a vehicle, to perform Darshan while wearing footwears, to perform Darshan with only one hand, not to stop in front of the deity while performing Parikrama, to sit stretching legs towards the deity, to sleep, to lie, to shout, to gossip, to scream, to quarrel, to laugh, to disturb others, to abuse others, to speak foul words, to derogate others, to bow down to any other persons except God, to perform inferior kind of pooja despite being capable for greater kind of pooja, to drink water or eat anything without offering it to the deity, to praise other persons or Guru etc. are 32 types of sins of which one should always be careful. In ***Narayankavach*** of *6th Skanda of Shri Bhagwat,* it is prayed to *Lord Hayagriv* to forgive for any sins committed of the Almighty Lord. In temple, one should perform *Darshan* of *Akhand Deep.* Since temple is a place of residence for *Bhakta, Mukta* and deities, the whole temple premises is worthy of worship. One should not turn his back towards the deities.

In *Shloka-23* of ***'Shiksha-Patri'***, Shree Hari has stated:

"When passing by temples of Lord Shiva and other deities,
one shall bow to them and pay due reverence to the deities therein."

In *Shloka-40*, Shree Hari has stated:

"All those who come to the temples of Lord Shree Krishna either daily on festival days,
shall keep themselves away from the opposite sex, by not even touching."

To perform *Darshan* is in a way an act of touching and therefore one should not perform *Darshan* without taking bath. Many people rush to the temple without taking bath to perform *Mangala Darshan*. But then they do not get blessings for performing *Darshan* but they commit sin of Almighty Lord.

One should remind himself about Shangar, ornaments and garlands of the deity during the whole day. Reminding ourselves about divine Darshan of the deity until we perform Darhshan in a temple, is also a kind of Darshan. There is a Shloka in the ritual of *Shodashopchar Mahapooja* of Shree Hari: "गतंपापंगतं दुःखं गतं द्रारिद्रयेमव आगतसुखसंपत्ति पुण्योऽहं तवदर्शनात् ॥"

One Should not Steal Anything

-Shastri Abhayprakashdasji Guru Swami Devprakashdasji (Naranghat)

Seventh rule is "One should not steal anything".

By uttering these words Sadguru Premanand Swami has explained that, one should not steal anything, be it wealth, remuneration for work or anything and one should abstain from all types of theft.

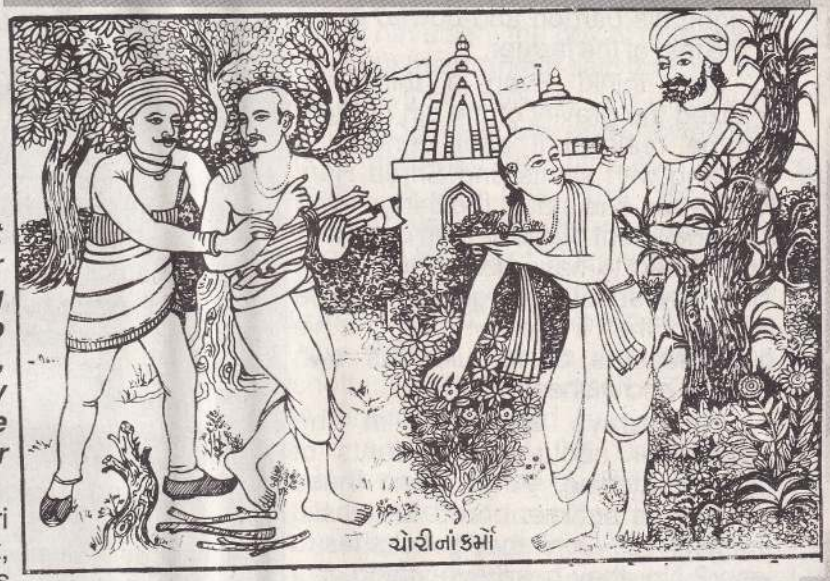
In Shloka-17 of *'Shiksha Patri'* Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has stated:

स्तेनकर्म न कर्तव्यं
धर्मार्थमपि केनचित् ।
स्वस्वामिकाष्ठपुष्पादि न
ग्राह्यं तदनाज्ञया ॥

"One shall not commit theft, even for the sake of performing an act of Dharma. No article, even firewood, flowers etc., owned by others shall ever be taken without their owner's permission."

Bhagwan Shree Hari has clearly directed that, one should not commit this sin even for the sake of religion because it does not help one earn Punya but on the contrary he commits sin of serious kind.

There was a goldsmith during the time of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. He used to make gold ornaments. Once this devotee offered a sliver glass to Shreeji Maharaj. But omniscient Shreeji Maharaj knew everything and therefore smiled and asked the goldsmith whether the silver which he used in that glass was his own. The goldsmith knew that Maharaj knows everything and so he honestly acknowledged that, as he was goldsmith by his profession, he had taken out silver from his customers' silver ornaments and that glass is made out of that silver. Maharaj said him, *"Then it is a theft."* Goldsmith said, *"Maharaj, but it is not for any selfish motive. It is for religion, for offering to Almighty Lord. So it is good."* Then Maharaj said to the goldsmith, *"But you will not earn Punya. The owners of this silver will earn silver and you will accumulate your sins."*



Shreeji Maharaj said that, one should pluck flowers from the garden for offering them to the deities without the permission of the owner of the garden because it is a kind of theft. One should not take away anything without permission of its owner.

Verabhai of Upleta was a very well known thief in the region and theft was his profession. But when he met the saints,

knew Shreeji Maharaj and performed Satsang then he became pious like a cow. Once Verabhai was passing from his farm. He took one *Datan* for Shreeji Maharaj but he got reminded that, without permission of any person one should not take even the firewood. He realized his mistake and repented a lot. He took Datan in his hand and went to the owner of the field. The farmer-owner of the farm know Verabhai and he felt greatly obliged and warmly welcomed him. Verabhai narrated him everything and begged his pardon and bowed down at the feet of the farmer.

Just think! Even a thief has realized the gravity of the sin of theft; but he realized it after performing Satsang with saints and Shree Hari. Now when one steals the things even for benevolent purpose then only he is considered to have committed a sin. Then how serious and grave would be his sin of theft if one commits it for his own pleasure or to fulfill his own desires and wishes!!!

Nowadays we read in the newspaper about the incidents of chain snatching. Why? Don't these people get sufficient food to subsist themselves? Don't they get clothes to wear? No. they have everything. But they cannot satisfy their own greed. And the result is such type of sins of theft being committed by them.

Real Satsangi is one, who does not steal anything lying on the road even if there is no one to notice it. There is famous incident of Ghela Koli of Kachchh in our Sampradaya. Husband and wife were suffering from scarcity of essential things like food and clothes. Yet, they did not look at the golden ornament lying on the road. They are real Satsangi.

Successors of the great devotee Jatanba of Dangarwa offered Things of Prasadi in Shree Swaminarayan Museum

Name of ardent devotee Shri Jatanba of village Dangarva of Dandhavya region is very famous in Satsang. Jatanba had recognized Shreeji Maharaj in real sense and therefore she used to follow all the directions of Shree Hari; as a result, even during the time of draught, there was no scarcity of grains in the cellar of Jatanba. Even the successors of this great devotee are equally religious and devout in their worship and Bhakti. And therefore they have offered Things of Prasadi to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

Donation of Rs. 2 lacs by the American Scholars

Any person visits Shree Swaminarayan Museum, he gets impressed with it. It is natural that Haribhaktas and our devotees may have importance of our Museum but it is not a small matter, when any stranger visitors get impressed with it and they are inspired to do something for the Museum. Recently about 20 Research Scholars of Vobash College India-America were guests of Ahmedabad for one week and as per their group they had stayed at Shree Swaminarayan Baug, Memnagar (residence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj) and residence of our devotees Dashrathbhai Patel (Member), devote Shri Ratibhai Patel (Member), devotee Shri Rasikbhai Patel (Mokhasanwala), devotee Shri Vitthalbhai Patel and devotee Shri Dharmendrabhai Patel. These Research Scholars performed *Darshan* of our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and they were visiting the religious places for the purpose of their research. But they were more interested about our original temple Shree Narnarayandev temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad. When they visited our Shree Swaminarayan Museum and the Things of Prasadi, they were very much impressed. While taking leave of the place they expressed their sincere gratitude towards H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and donated Rs. 2 lacs for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

Everyday is Diwali

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakashdas, Jamiyatpura (Mahant Swami, Mansa)

What does the festival of *Diwali* bring with it? This festival brings happiness, new hopes and expectations, 'ornaments' of happiness and *Rajbhog* of *Annakut*. One such *Diwali* festival was celebrated by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in Kariyani. There were joy and pleasure in the hearts of saints and devotees. Beautiful lamps were lit around the stage which was beautifully decorated for Maharaj and *Paramhamsa*. The garb and clothes which were offered to Shreeji Maharaj looked divine. *Paramhamsa* and *Muktas* were rendering their devout services to Maharaj. It was a great occasion and everyone was enjoying it.

Haribhaktas from Div port came on this occasion. They had prepared beautiful and very rich and costly clothes for Shreeji Maharaj. When these devotees ardently offered the clothes to Maharaj, Maharaj Himself accepted them, and granted the devotees divine *Darshan* in these new clothes. Maharaj was very much pleased with the devotees of Div port and Maharaj stated it in the *Sabha*. All saints, devotees and *Muktas* were happy with this. Now Shreeji Maharaj Himself wanted to celebrate the festival of *Diwali*! There is a difference in celebration of festival between Shree Hari and His devotees. there is a clear message behind purpose of celebration of each festival.

The learned Brahmin Dinanath Bhatt was also present in the Sabha. Maharaj offered all the precious clothes and ornaments to devotee Dinanath Bhatt. Maharaj said that, it is difficult to tackle and overcome jealousy. Therefore in *'Bhagwat'* Vyasji has considered only those person eligible to accept the grace and blessings of Almighty Lord who are not jealous. Shree Hari said, ***"I am beyond all human feelings such as Anger, Greed, Pride, Jealousy etc. I am not bound by any Word, Touch, Form, Taste or Smell. I accept the offerings from the devotees considering his ardent faith and not the quality or quantity of the offerings. I am for my ardent devotees; everything is else of this Universe is nothing for Me."***

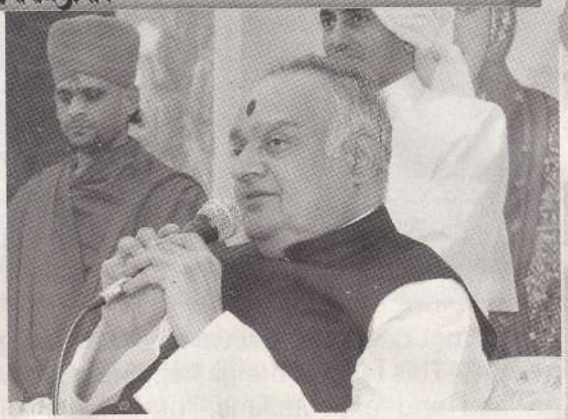
This is the essence of the Secret of Philosophy of the Whole World. This wonderful thing is explained by Shree Hari Himself. When we shall understand Him from this point of view then we shall automatically surrender ourselves to Him and Stream of Love shall start flowing from our heart. Once this much is achieved then every Day will be *Diwali* for us.

For Nitya-Darshan of following temples log on to:

Jetalpur : www.jetalpurdarshan.com
Mahesana : www.mahesanadarshan.org
Chhapaiya : www.chhapaiya.com
Torda : www.gopallalji.com

Miracles in this Kaliyug

- Shastri Dharmkishordas
(Swaminarayan temple, Los Angeles)



Even in this Kaliyug our Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has performed many miracles on this earth; but sometimes they remain unknown to our Sampradaya

There is great Shree Swaminarayan temple of I.S.S.O. in Los Angeles of California. Invocation of the idol images of Shri Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj was performed before ten years by our H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj. During the occasion, a miracle occurred in the presence of thousands of saints and *Haribhaktas*. During the invocation ritual, Shree Harikrishna Maharaj held the upper cloth of our H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj! the miracle was witnessed by all the devotees who were present on the occasion and performed divine Darshan of the miracle. All were convinced that, Shreeji Maharaj is present in our H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

Recently one American girl and one Punjabi Family and one Indian family settled in America since long experienced a miracle in our Los Angeles temple. Summary of this miracle is as under:

"One American girl visited our temple with her friends. She was inspired and performed divine *Darshan* of the idol images in our temple. Observing this, one of our devotees gave her photo image of Shreeji Maharaj and *'Shiksha-Patri'* (in English). She took them at her home. After four hours, she developed a strange decease. Despite all types of treatments by the specialist doctors she could not be cured of. She was crying alone at home and was remembering the Almighty Lord. Suddenly she looked at English edition of *'Shiksha-Patri'* and she read it completely in one night. When she completed its reading, she felt peace of mind and with the blessings of Shreeji Maharaj, she got divine Darshan of Shreeji Maharaj in her dream. In her dream she was consoled with the words, "Don't worry. Everything will be O.K. and you will be cured of." She jumped out of her bed with agility. But where to find our the temple. With the help of Google search, she found out address of our temple of Cardifanny Seat. She rushed to the temple in the evening and the moment she saw the idol image of the temple, she shouted that it was the idol image, whose Darshan she had in her dream. From that moment and day onwards, she has become an ardent devotee of our Sampradaya and is very regular in performing Darshan of our temple. Now she is completely cured of her strange illness!!!

One Punjabi family used to come to perform Darshan in Santan temple beside our temple. The family did not come to our temple for Darshan. That family was very unhappy mentally and economically. The family sought advice, guidance and help of many learned persons, Pandits and Astrologers but in vain.

One day her younger daughter Nandini was blessed by Almighty Shree Hari and she ardently requested her parents to visit our temple to perform *Darshan* and she brought the whole family to our temple. While performing *Darshan* in our temple, the whole family experienced something divine and miraculous; it was a wonderful joyous experience for the family. One night, Shreeji Maharaj granted all the three members of

(Con. From Page 27)

Kartik Sud-11 is pious day to Remember Dharma

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

Dharmdev- father of our Lord Shree Swaminarayan – was born on the pious day of Kartik Sud-11 Wednesday Vikram Samvat 1796 at village Mehdav in Northern Koshal Desh. Parents of Dharmdev were Balsharma and Bhagyavati. The father Balsharma was very renowned due to his noble conduct and gentle nature. Family of Dharmdev belonged to Savarni Gotra, Samvedi Kauthumi Shaakha and Three Pravars of Bhargav, Vaitahvya and Savetas. Right from the birth Dharmdev was a very bright and intelligent child and therefore earlier father Balsharma had kept the name Prathamdev Sharma but himself being Dharm Prajapati, he was known as Dharmdev.

In *'Shree Hari Balcharitra'* there is beautiful description of Dharmdev being incarnation of *Dharma* (Religion). Dharmdev was married to Bhaktimata and they had three sons, the elder son Rampratapbhai, Ghanshyam Maharaj (Shree Hari) and the youngest son Iccharambhai. Suvasinibai was the wife of the elder brother Rampratapbhai. H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj is the son of Rampratapbhai and Suvasinibai and Adi Acharya of Ahmedabad *Narnarayandev Desh Diocese*. He narrates divine *Bal Charitra* of Shree Hari to his nephew Ramsaranji in the grand *Sabha* of Chhapaiya. While narrating *Charitra* of Dharmdev, he says that his Charitra is very pious and divine and capable of absolving all the sins. Once Dharmdev was taking bath at the well and Suvasinibai went there to give towel. She thought, in the scriptures, description of Dharma says that Dharmdev has four hands, four faces, four les and eight eyes but I do not see anything of this in Him. The omniscient Shree Hari knew it and therefore inspired by the blessings Dharmdev granted Suvasinibai divine *Darshan* of Dharmdev in accordance with the description of the Scriptures. When Suvasinibai performed Pranam then Dharmdev said that we are bother Dharm and Bhakti and Ghanshymabhai is Aksharadhipati Puruthottam Narayan; and our human form is for welfare and benefit of the whole mankind.

The meaning is that, father of Shree Hari is Dharmdev himself. This Dharmdev was very pious and replete all types of noble qualities. He had inclination for the study of the scriptures. He used to preach sermons to those who would come to him. Ladies devotees were granted Mantra-Sermons through his wife Bhaktidevi. Shree Hari Himself has studied all Vedas, complete Maha-Bhasya (Brahmsutra Bhasya), six scriptures, Poems and Puranans etc. Dharmdev had granted Vaishnavi Diksha to Shree Hari and had granted the Mantra ***'Shri Krishna Tvam Gatirmama'***.

All the sermons like Brahmcharya, to abstain from all improper things, Compassion towards all animals, Tapa, Satya, Tolerance, Patience etc. as described in detail in *Vedas, Puranas* and all other scriptures were preached. When one observes all this it is called *Sanatan Dharma*. When this *Santan Dharma* is related to Bhagwan Shree Narayan then it is called *Ekantik Dharma* but without Him it is called common *Vedokta Dharma*. When a human being worships Bhagwan Vasudev by seeking shelter in Ekantik Dharma then at the end of his life he gets place in Dham of Bhagwan Vasudev.

In Chapter-2 of *'Satsangijivan'* Shree Hari has stated that, "If *Karma* (action) without *Dharma* (religion) is capable of yielding noble fruits then intelligent and pious persons would never take recourse to *Karma* (action). Those *Karmas* which are praised by the learned and great persons should be

(Con. From Page 27)

'Kut Kavya' of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Pande- the great poet and linguist of Vrajbhasha and Sanskrit languages

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt (Bhuj-Kachchh)

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji gave me *'Kut Kavyalok'* created by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj of Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese. It is rare in the sense that, one can have divine *Darshan* of many *Kavya-Kruti* (poems) of our Acharya Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj. While studying these poems, one can get Vision of various fields of Knowledge besides *Aaradhna, Upasana* and *Kartavya*. Even the editors of this divine collection have been very great literary persons such as Dr. Dhananand Sharma *'Jadli'*, Acharya Raghunath Bhatt, Dr. Raghuvir Chaudhary and Dr. Vachaspati Mishra. In its introductory note Dr. Ambashanka. Nagar, the President of *Hindi Sahitya Parishad*, Ahmedabad, has expressed his gratitude towards H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj for granting gracious permission for publishing this collection of poems.

In the Preface to *'Kut-Kavyalok'*, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj has stated, ***"Creations of Bapuji are not imaginative. But he has attempted to reveal the Truth. Once upon a time, he observed something and then he has tried to capture it in his words. In the poems of Bapuji, one can see description of condition of the country, Satsang Samaj, Love, Compassion and Purpose of Life along with Reformation of Society. He is fond of self-introspection in peaceful atmosphere. In future the ardent readers of these poems would undertake Comparative and Assimilative Research on the principles of Experimentalism and when Hindi literature would be developed these poems would earn name and popularity."***

Poem is the Beauty of this Universe. Poems are the creation of self-inspiration.



And such self-inspiration is possible only with the Mercy and Blessing of Almighty Lord. In *'Kut Kavyalok'* poems created by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj during the period of 20 years between 1945 A.D. to1965 A.D. are covered. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devenraprasadji Maharaj- fifth *Acharya* of *Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese* was always conscious about his own duties and kept on performing his religious duties as *Dharmacharya*. He was very sensitive, religious and joyous personality fond of festivals. One finds in his poems, his ardent faith and worship well described in *Shri Ganesh Stavan, Sharda Stavan, Narnarayan Stavan, Shri Krishnastak, Shiv-Smaran* etc.

This book begins with the praise of Almighty Lord:

સ્વામિનારાયણ શરન હર નર સંકટ હરન,
સ્મરન કરન મંગલ સદા ધન્ય ધર્મધુર ધારન.

Shri Devenraprasadji has given to it the nickname of *'Kut'*. The word *'Kut'* used in the sense of *'Chitrakut'* (famous mountain-range referred to in the great epic *'Ramayan'*) denotes to a peak of the mountain. But from another sense, it also means *'Gudhokti'* ('very difficult to understand'). Some of the poems are difficult to understand.

Shree Hari had special feeling towards Sanskrit language. Shree Hari had given priority to establishment of *Sanskrit Pathshala* (school where primarily Sanskrit language is taught) with a view to make this language easily accessible to the common people. H.H. Shri Devendraprasadji also established *Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya*. *Yagnopavit Samskara* (Holy Thread ritual) was performed to him at his tender age of 08 years in *Vikram Samvat 1986*. Thereafter he learned and mastered Sanskrit, English, *Vrajbhasha, Prakrut*, Music etc. He also learnt writing poems from His Guru Shri Durganathji Jha and Shri Girijashankarji. He was also interested in *Charni* literature.

વંદન ગુરૂજન કો વિમલ, દવદય શુદ્ધિ કે હેત,
પારસમનિ કે પરસતે, લોહકનક પન લેત.

On the pious occasion of *'Guru Purnima'* Maharaj has written, ***"The real guide in Life is Guru only and therefore only Guru is capable of removing Darkness and spreading Light."*** Great poet-saints of the time of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan had created poems in *Vrajbhasha*. And therefore, it is but natural that, Shri Devendraprasadji may have been inspired by this, and then he would have created poems in *Vrajbhasha*. Silence is better than any frivolous words and this is amply justified in the great epic *'Ramayan'*. Silence is far better than any misuse of tongue. And therefore, Maharjshri has written in Sanskrit that,

વાણી સંયમનો ચિતા વિસ્તૃતા અનુચિતા
ઉચ્ચાર્યાઃ નિઃસૃતા,
ધન્યા ભો વનજન્મવો ભુવિતયે વાણી
વિહિના યતઃ.

Smt. Rajendrakumari Lali Raja has beautifully written about her beloved father Shri Devendraprasadji, ***"He was a beloved father. He was our friend. He was witty and joyous. His idiosyncrasy was to speak much in very less words."*** Shri Devendraprasadji – the poet was an obedient son of His parents and worshipped them. Once He himself held *Shibika* of His mother while performing pilgrimage to *Badridham*. At that time, his maternal uncle fell ill and therefore he prayed to Almighty Lord to protect his uncle:

મામા કો મંગલ કરો, દર્દ કરો દ્રુત દૂર,
શસ્ત્રકાર્ય મેં શસ્ત્ર પૈ, હરિહર રહો હજૂર.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was a beloved father. His younger son Yogendraprasadji passed away to *Akshardham* on *Shivrarti* (26/02/1955) at an age of just 02 years. This moved Him from within. He was very unhappy. The following words describe his state of mind:

કૈસે પ્રિય બિન દિન કટૈ, અંતર કટિ-કટિ
આહ,
તન-મન ભયો તબાહ, જનમઅકારથ
જોગિયા.

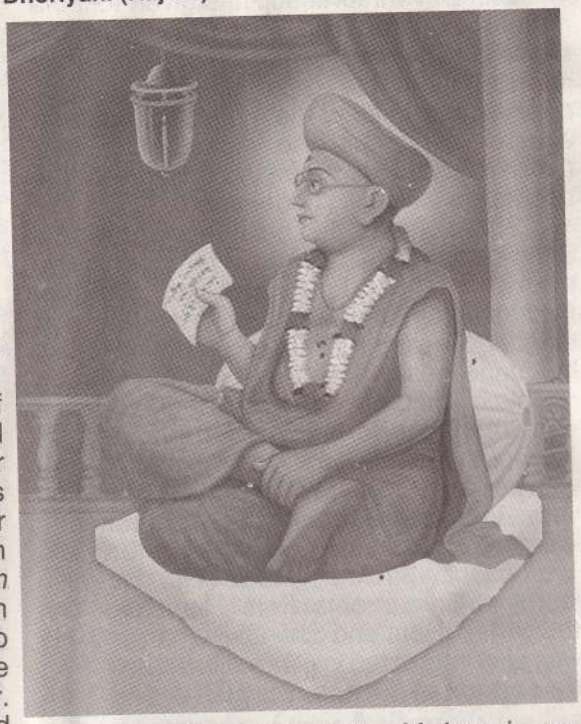
A great personality and *Dharmacharya* H.H. Shri Devendraprasadji was honoured as *'Dharm Martand'* by *Sabha* of Kashi and he was honoured with a Letter of Appreciation which reads as under:

"You have diligently observed principles and rituals of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya and you have protected them well. Your fame is spread all over the world. And therefore inspired by your name and fame, Shri Kashi Pandit Sabha honours You as 'Dharm Martand' (Sun of Religion) (Strict Follower of Dharma and capable of removing Darkness of Ignorance of the devotees). You are noble personality with simplicity of heart and possess noble qualities."

Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj was lover of Nature. His poems about *Sahitya* (Literature), *Sangit* (Music), *Kala* (Art), *Pravas* (Travelling) *Netagiri* (Leadership) and Earthquake of Darbhanga, are instructive in nature.

Life Swami Nityanand

- Prof. Mahadev Dhoriyani (Rajkot)



Dantiya is a village situated in Lucknow district of Bundelkhand in Northern India. in the village Govind Sharma and Dinmani Sharma were born in the house of Yajurvedi Gaud Brahmin Vishnusharma and Virjadevi. This Dinmani Sharma is our great and erudite Pandit Shri Nityanand Swami.

His father Vishnusharma Sharma was a very learned and rich person. Sober and tranquil temperament of Dinmani Sharma in a very rich family was unique in itself creating a distinct identity in the society.

Dinmani Sharma was very fond of learning Sanskrit and the Scriptures and therefore he remained in Kashi for considerable time and studied the Scriptures there. He was curious and eager to discover *Param Tatva*. After completing his studies, in stead of going home he performed *Tirthatan* (Pilgrimage) of the whole of India. While on his journey towards Dwarika, he came to Visnagar where someone told him that the Almighty Lord has incarnated in Kathiyawar. The person also described Almighty Lord which matched with the description of the Scriptures and therefore, Dinmani Sharma was curious to meet Him.

After performing pilgrimage of Dwarika, Dinmani Sharma came to the village 'Faneni'. Here he met Prabhutanandji the disciple of Shree Sahjanand Swami. by listening the preaching from Prabhutanandji, his mind became peaceful and heart felt eternal serenity. When he heard that Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is going to grace Unjha via Siddhpur he immediately reached to Unjha. In Unjha Maharaj was in the Sabha conducted on the bank of a lake. While performing divine *Darshan* of Maharaj, Dinmani Sharma forgot everything; then he performed *Shastang Dandwat Pranam*. Maharaj embraced him in the Sabha. On observing Mukharvind of Maharaj, Dinmani Sharma was convinced that He was Almighty Lord and therefore he decided to permanently stay with Maharaj and requested Maharaj to grant him *Diksha*. Maharaj granted him *Bhagwati Diksha* at village Meghraj and called him Nityanand Swami.

Maharaj directed Nityanand Swami for further study of the Scriptures and accordingly Nityanand Swami deeply studied *Vedant, Nyay, Sankhya* etc. from the learned Purushottam Bhatt. During his studies, Purushottam Bhatt felt that, Swami was not a common man as he resolves the most complex mysteries of the Scriptures very easily. "I cannot teach him; on the contrary I should study under him."

Once Bhattji organized a discourse on the Scriptures. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Bhattji praised Swami very much and therefore all other learned persons asked innumerable questions to Swami. Some of these questions were as under:

(1) Nature of *'Atma'* is Knowledge-

oriented. Which are its nine types?

(2) Which type of animal (soul) has Knowledge and of what type?

(3) Which one is Direct or Indirect type of Knowledge?

(4) Which type of Knowledge is the root of Emancipation?

(5) How to know *Atma* (Soul)?

(6) Explain *Brahmopdesh* and its importance.

The whole Sabha was surprised to listen to the answers of the above questions. Bhattji was very much pleased with this. Thereafter Swamiji used to stay with Maharaj only. Katha narrated by Swamiji was memorable one for all:

"કરે કથા નિત્યાનંદ નિત્ય,
રાખી ગ્રંથો રળિયામણા."

With the directions of Maharaj, Muktanand Swami and other saints used to teach the scriptures to the saints in Ahmedabad. They themselves used to prepare their meals. Swamiji was very healthy and was famous for that. When someone asked the secret of his health, Swamiji replied that, he takes normal meals but his body is replete with the name of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and that is the secret of his health.

The great learned Nityanand Swami's father Vishnu Sharma was very rich person, yet Swamiji ignored all wealth and taught many saints under the directions of Maharaj. besides many books, Swamiji has written great book *'Shri Haridigvijay'*.

Swamiji has rendered great services of our Satsang and has given beautiful shape to it. By teaching the saints and making them learned, Swamiji has increased the name and fame of our Sampradaya. Swamiji has proved it with his intelligence and knowledge that Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya is the best one and endorsed by the Vedas. On this issue there were occasions of discussion with learned persons of Pusti Sampradaya and Nawab of Junagadh, wherein Swamiji proved that, Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya is great and unique. In the Sabha Swamiji convincingly explained the specialty, pride and constitution of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya.

There are many such incidents in the life of Nityanand Swami but it is impossible to encompass all due to shortage of space. However, it would be sufficient to mention here that, though born in a rich family, Nityanand Swami was not swayed away by the wealth and chose to surrender himself to Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and rendered great services to our Sampradaya. Hail Sadguru Swami Nityanandji. Jay Shree Swaminarayan.

'Nirnaya' of the New Year

Any changes in date and *Tithi* of *Patotsav, Vrat, Utsav* as also telephone number of any of our Shree Swaminaryan temple under Ahmedabad, Muli, Bhuj temple of *Shree Narnarayandev Desh* may kindly be submitted at the earliest to the office of *'Shree Swaminarayan'* Magazine for inclusion in the *'Nirnaya'* of the New Year.

Members of 'Shree Swaminarayan' Magazine

Our *'Shree Swaminarayan'* magazine is dispatched regularly on 11th of every month. However, there are complaints of non-receipt of the issue by some of the members. On receipt of such complaint, the issue of the magazine is dispatched again to the concerned members subject to availability of stock of the issues. Issues of the magazine are dispatched to all the members after sorting as per Pin Code numbers of different places of different districts and areas. Despite this, if the issue of the magazine is not received, then members are requested to lodge their complaint with the respective local Post Office. They are also requested to inform the change of address with new Pin Code number.

On the occasion of 125th Patotsav of Rangmahol Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj

- Rajan Bhavsar (Visnagar)



Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has established and invoked His own Idol image in the name of Shree Harikrishna alongside Shri Bhaktimata and Shri Dharmdev in Ahmedabate temple, alongside Shri Radha and Shri Krishna at Vadtal and alongside Shri Revtiji and Shri Baldevji in Jetalpurdham. Moreover, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has also installed and invoked His own Idol image in the name of Shri Vasudev alongside Shri Bhaktimata and Shri Dharmpita in Vadtal temple. Thus, Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan has established and invoked His own Idol images in the names of 'Shri Harikrishna' and 'Shri Vasudev'.

In this Acharya tradition of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese, *Aadi Acharya* H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharj had established and invoked the idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in the name of 'Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj' alongside Dharmdev and Bhaktimata in our temple at Chhapaiya. Thereafter tradition of establishing and invoking single idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan without any *Bhakta* or incarnation was started by H.H. Shri Keshavprasadji Maharaj who established and invoked idol image of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj in Rangmahol (the place of residence of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan) in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad, on *Kartik Sud-12 Samvat* 1942. Thereafter H.H. Shri Vasudevprasadji Maharaj established and invoked the idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in *Sabha Mandap* of Muli temple on the pious day of Vasant Panchmi Vikram Samvat 1962. thereafter on *Jeth Sud-2 Vikram Samvat* 1963, idol image of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was invoked and established in Prantij temple and on *Vaisakh*

Vad-3 Vikram Samvat 1969, idol image of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was invoked and established in Mansa temple and on the pious day of *Chaitra Sud-9 Vikram Samvat* 1975, idol image of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was invoked and established in Chhapaiya temple.

Many saints and *Haribhaktas* think as to why the idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is not established alongside His devotees or *Haribhaktas*. But explaining His own Form in *Shloka-111* of *'Shiksha Patri'* Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has stated:

"At times, devotees such as Radhikaji and others are alongside Lord Krishna but at other times, they, with extreme devotion, dwell within Lord Shree Krishna, which at such times shall be considered as by Himself."

Explaining this principle of this *Shloka* by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in *'Shiksha Patri Arthdipika'* Shatanand Muni says that, ***"Lord Shree Krishna in the company of Radhikaji is both visible and invisible. At some time, devotees can get divine Darshan of both of them together and then they are described and addressed together as Radha-Krishna, whereas at some other time, due to extreme devotion of Radhikaji, they dwell within Lord Krishna, and at such time they are described and addressed as Shri Krishna only. And therefore when there is only idol image of Lord Shri Krishna in a temple, devotees should understand know Him with Radhikaji only."***

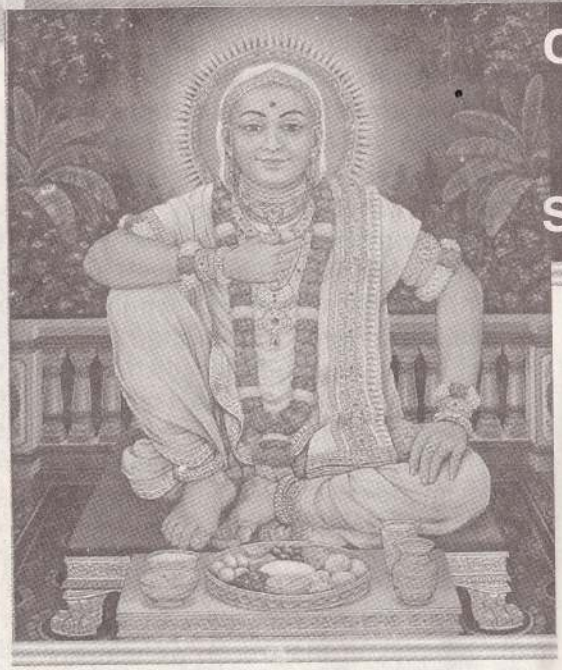
Following this principle only, idol images of Shri Ranchhodraiji (Shri Krishna) and Shri Trikamraiji(Shri Vamanji) without any devotee have been established by Lord Himself in our Junagadh temple. Moreover, during His own time, Shree Hari had got established from H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj H.H. Shri Raghuvirprasadji Maharaj of Vadtal the idol images of Shri Ranchhodraiji to the right side the idol images of Shri Laxminarayandev in Vadtal temple. Thus, idol image of the Almighty Lord can be established without His devotee. There are many temples in India such as temples of Tirupati Balaji, Shrinathji, Dakor, Dwarika, Pandharpur etc. where idol image of the Almighty Lord only are established and invoked.

Thus, when there is only idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in the temple, then devotees should not consider it as alone but accompanied by *Anantkoti Aksharmukta, Aksharbrahma* and also alongwith Muktanand Swami, Mukundanand Brahmchari and devotees like Mayaram.

Request to the Authors, Article Writers

All the authors, article writers of our *'Shree Swaminarayan'* magazine may kindly take note of the following guidelines:

- Copy of article may be sent neatly written as per the standard dictionary.
- All writing and articles must be in accordance with the tradition and principles of our *Sampradaya*. There should not be any copy of anything which is published earlier or in any book. Even if such writing is published through oversight, then it shall be the sole responsibility of the writer/author concerned.
- Articles should be in legible handwriting.
- All references from Sanskrit text and English quotations should be written neatly with their meaning.
- The writing should be precise and to the point.



Celebration of *Dipotsavi* and *Annakutotsav* in Bhuj by Shree Sahjanand Swami

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt (Bhuj-Kachchh)

Our festivals are considered to be divine ornaments of Indian Culture. During His time, Shri Sahjanand Swami had encouraged *Utsav* and *Samaiya*. These Utsav (festivals) keep the society lively and among all the festivals 'The Festival of Diwali' is given the status of 'King of all festivals'. It is the festival of Light which dispels darkness from human life and society. In Human life this festival is considered to be the Festival of Self Introspection and Self Purification. Light of Knowledge removes Darkness of Ignorance from human life.

Before 204 years, Shree Sahjanand Swami graced the house of the devotee Jethi Gangarambhai. Many devotees from Kachchh and Sorath came there to perform divine Darshan of Maharaj. at that time the devotee Gangaram Jethi requested Shreeji Maharaj, ***"Oh Maharaj! there will be the festival of Diwali after a few days. Please celebrate Diwali and Annakutotsav in Bhuj and fulfill the desire and wish of we all the devotees."*** Shreeji Maharaj granted the request and directed to make all the preparations for celebration of the *Diwali*.

Here devotees Shivram Mehta, Harjivan Mehta and Ladhibai requested Shreeji Maharaj to celebrate *Annakutotsav* and Shreeji Maharaj granted the request. With a view that, maximum number of devotees can avail the benefit of this divine festival, Shreeji Mahraj sent invitation to all saints and devotees of Zalavad, Halar areas of Saurashtra region. It was decided to celebrate this festival on the pious day of *Kartik Sud-1 Samvat 1862*.

On the pious day of *Diwali*, Sahjanand Swami performed *Snan* along with *Muktas* in Hamirsar lake of Bhuj. All the saints alongwith and the devotees like Shivram Mehta organized procession of Shreeji Maharaj. Understanding the feelings of Ladhiba for *Annakut Samaiyo*, Shree hari inspired the people of Bhuj to render their services for *Samaiya*. At that time, no modern equipments and machinery were there and everything was done through human labour and manpower. And all the people of Bhuj voluntarily rendered various types of services.

Two *Pakshala* (huge kitchens) were made ready to prepare the meals for *Prasad* of *Annakut* whose arrangements were made by the devotees Jethi Gangaram, Jethi Valji, Jethi Khimji, Jethi Mulji and Lohana Uka, Sejpal, Vallabhji, Bhagwanji, Ramdas Suthar, Sundarjibhai, Hirjibhai and among ladies devotees were Ladhibhai, Gomtibhai, Mulibai, Jethibai, Surajba, Baherkhiba etc. devotees Pagji Purani and Suthar Hirjibhai rendered their services for supervision of *Pakshala*. Bhatt Mahidas, Bhatt Vishweshwar, Bhatt Kameshwar, Dave

(Con. From Page 31)

Celebration of 38th Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Idar



- Shastri Harijivandas (Himatnagar)

38th Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in the pious company of Shree Gopinathji Harikrishna Maharaj at Idar in Sabarkantha district.

Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji of Idar temple and Sadguru Raghuvircharandasji Swami (Sokli) and Mahant Swami Krishnaprasaddasji of Torda temple and Kothari Satyasankalp Swami and Shastri Swami Harijivandasji (Himatnagar) and Sadguru Vasudevcharan Swami (Ahmedabad) and Shastri Shreejiprakashdasji (Sokli) etc. saints had already started all the preparations of *Utsav* well in advance. Moreover, all Satsangi devotees of Sabarkantha and Idar Desh had rendered their services of mind, body and money for this *Utsav*.

As a part of *Janmotsav*, *Prabhat-Feri*, 38 *Maha Pooja*, Tree plantation etc. programmes were organized in all the nearby villages; moreover, Rally for Freedom from Addiction at Himatnagar, Blood Donation Camp and *Pad Yatra* from 38 villages to Idar were also organized on this occasion. All the preparations for kitchen, *Sabha Mandap* and *Shobha Yatra* were completed before the pious day of *Vijaya Dashmi*.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Idar early in the morning on the pious day of *Vijaya Dashmi* and performed Shodasopchar Abhishek of Shree Gopinathji Harikrishna Maharaj, whose benefit was availed by thousands of saints and Haribhaktas. Thereafter 38 hour Mahamantra Dhoon and 38 Mahapooja were concluded. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed Chhapan Bhog Annakut Aarti. Thereafter a grand *Shobha Yatra* of beautifully decorated tractors amongst musical band and Kirtans by Haribhaktas was performed in the whole city of Idar from Laloda road via Shreeji Bio Seeds.

A grand Sabha amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras was started in the presence of about more than fifteen thousand devotees and 200 saints. first of all Sadguru Jagdishprasaddasji Swami – the organizer of Janmotsav-

obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Then Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar), Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Kalupur), Mahant Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji (Jetalpur), Shastri Swami Ghanshyamjivandasji (Laloda), all other saints and Members of the Scheme Committee celebrated Janmotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj who cut Birthday cake. On declaration by Shri P.P. Swami of Jetalpurdham, Mahant Swami of Idar offered Charanarvind of Prasadi to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

On this occasion, chief host, co-hosts and all other devotees offered garlands and obtained blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Haribhaktas and people of Muslim Community of Idar offered 38 feet long garland made of fruits and flowers to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and obtained the blessings. On this occasion Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji from Gandhinagar and many other saints who came from Ahmedabad, Jetalpur, Muli, Chhapaiya, Siddhpur, etc. places delivered their speeches. Haribhaktas of Sabarkantha took vow of organizing 2 crore Mantra-Lekhan (writing holy Maha Mantra), chanting thousands of Mantaa, Prabhat-Feri, Parayan of Vachanamrit, Mahapooja etc. on this pious day. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj honoured Kothari Swami Satyasankalpdasji of Idar temple and Sadguru Vasudevcharan Swami, with garlands who conducted the Sabha beautifully. All the saints honoured Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji for beautiful arrangement and management of the whole Utsav.

On this occasion our future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj sought blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the pious day of Birthday of His father. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed all the saints and devotees and said that all the festivals in the Sampradaya, be it Janmotsav of Dharmkul, Janoi (holy thread) Samskara, Rajat Jayanti are celebrated for nourishment of Sampradaya only. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the saints and devotees. H.H. Shri Gadiwala and H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala –Guru of ladies devotees, had also arrived to bless all the devotees.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj released DVD of Idar Darshan and booklets entitled ***'Prashnottar Pradipak'*** and ***'Bal Samskar'*** by Uttamanand Swami. during the whole Utsav, satsangi devotees of Laloda and Maniyor had rendered their services for kitchen. Devotees of village Sapawada had rendered services for *Shobha-yatra* and devotees of Himatnagar and Ilol had rendered services for Stage and *Sabha Mandap.* Devotees of Netramali village had rendered services for residence and meals of the whole Dharmkul and saints. devotees of Umedgadh for Mahapooja-Annakut, devotees of Sabalwar for Parking, devotees of Aroda, Sachodar and satsangis of Sabarkantha district had rendered their services for Padyatri. Beautiful arrangement for water was made by the devotees of village Dungri. (Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji).

38 Life time Membership of *'Shree Swaminarayan'* magazine

On the occasion of 38 *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj the devotee Shri Chandreskumar J. Patel of *Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal* of village Akrund (tal. Bayad, Dist. Sabarkantha) had obtained 38 subscriptions of Life Time Membership of *'Shree Swaminarayan'* magazine. May Shree Hari blessed such active and ardent devotees. (H.K. Swami)

On the occasion of 125th Patotsav of Rangmahol Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj

- Rajan Bhavsar (Visnagar)



Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has established and invoked His own Idol image in the name of Shree Harikrishna alongside Shri Bhaktimata and Shri Dharmdev in Ahmedabate temple, alongside Shri Radha and Shri Krishna at Vadtal and alongside Shri Revtiji and Shri Baldevji in Jetalpurdham. Moreover, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has also installed and invoked His own Idol image in the name of Shri Vasudev alongside Shri Bhaktimata and Shri Dharmpita in Vadtal temple. Thus, Bhagwan Shri Swaminarayan has established and invoked His own Idol images in the names of 'Shri Harikrishna' and 'Shri Vasudev'.

In this Acharya tradition of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese, *Aadi Acharya* H.H. Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharj had established and invoked the idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in the name of 'Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj' alongside Dharmdev and Bhaktimata in our temple at Chhapaiya. Thereafter tradition of establishing and invoking single idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan without any *Bhakta* or incarnation was started by H.H. Shri Keshavprasadji Maharaj who established and invoked idol image of Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj in Rangmahol (the place of residence of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan) in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad, on *Kartik Sud-12 Samvat* 1942. Thereafter H.H. Shri Vasudevprasadji Maharaj established and invoked the idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in *Sabha Mandap* of Muli temple on the pious day of Vasant Panchmi Vikram Samvat 1962. thereafter on *Jeth Sud-2 Vikram Samvat* 1963, idol image of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was invoked and established in Prantij temple and on *Vaisakh*

Pilgrimage of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj to Australia

- Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul)

Though Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is the Lord of this Universe and the Cause and Controller of all Action on this earth yet Almighty surrenders Himself in front of ardent devotion and Bhakti of devotees. This tradition has continued in the family of Shree Hari also and there is nothing new or surprising about it.

By accepting invitation of the ardent devotees residing in a distant country-cum-continent like Australia, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the land of Australia alongwith saints with a view to grant the devotees the divine benefit of Darshan and Satsang. The pilgrimage of Australia was performed from 21/10/2010 to 02/11/2010.

First of all H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced city of Perth at night on 20/10/2010. even then many devotee and Haribhaktas had come to welcome H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. divine Samaiyu of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was performed by the devotees on the Airport. Thereafter H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the house of the devotee Shri Premjibhai Khetani. For three days, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the houses of devotees and granted them divine Darshan. Many devotees from U.K. and Africa also availed the benefit of Satsang which was being performed in Satsang Sabha organized every evening in a very spacious hall. Land for temple at Perth has been purchased and the site was also visited by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. The President Shri Ravjibhai and all the trustees prayed to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj for expeditious construction of the temple. From there H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced Brisbane.

It was debut visit of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharj to Brisbane and therefore all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* were very much pleased on this occasion. Many of our devotees and *Haribhaktas*, who earlier came to Figy and thereafter settled in Australia are residing in Brisbane. Many other devotees went to Australia for further studies or for business purpose and are now settled there. Though number of our devotees is very small yet their faith and worship are very intense and therefore H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was very much pleased who had visited the place before sixteen years when He was H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. Families of the devotees Bhaskarbhai, Jagdishbhai, Jitenbhai and Muljibhai were very much happy. Beautiful Satsang Sabha was organized for two days in the evening. From Brisbane, H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj graced Gold Cost where a beautiful Satsang Sabha was organized. Many devotees from Sydney and Perth had come to Brisbane to perform divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. From there H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced Melbourne.

Devotees of Melbourne were eagerly waiting for H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. from Airport H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the house of the devotee Dipakbhai Raghvani. During His stay of four days, there was pleasure and happiness and joy everywhere and all the devotees availed the divine benefit of Satsang and Grace of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. With the request of young devotees- one day trip to Philip Island was also organized. In the pious company of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, everyone learns something new and that was the experience of all the participants of this divine trip. A tree plantation programme was organized in the temple premises. In the Sabha which was organized every evening, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the saints used to deliver speeches. One evening Rasotsav was also organized. Considering the request of the devotees and Haribhaktas, H.H. Shri Acharya Mahraj accepted the meals along with the saints and the devotees in a programme organized at night. From there H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced Adelaide.

Though devotees of our Sampradaya

are very less in Adelaide, their fervour and enthusiasm and pleasure were noteworthy because of their ardent faith and worship. During the stay of two days, one day *Satsang Shibir* was organized and in this *Shibir*, all the questions and queries of the devotees were answered by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the houses of the devotees and in the evening Katha, Kirtan etc. were organized. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the devotees and then returned to India.

It was a very short span of this pilgrimage of only twelve days but it nourished our *Satsang*. Many devotees of Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide and devotees from other places availed the benefit of this divine pilgrimage. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was accompanied by Shri P.P. Swami (Mahant of Naranghat temple), Shri Ramswami (Koteshwar) and Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat. From Perth devotee Shri Vishrambhai had rendered his services for 12 days and availed the benefit of Satsang in the pious company of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. May Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev strengthen our Satsang all over the world.

(Con. on Page 14)

Miracles in this Kaliyug

that family simultaneously and that also in One and the Same Form. Since then this Punjabi family has become an ardent devotee of our Sampradaya. They started performing Daily *Snan, Pooja, Path, Darshan, Niyam* etc. and all their miseries vanished away.

One South Indian family is settled and resides in San Dioga of America. Once they came towards Los Angeles during the time of the festival of Holi. On the way they passed by our temple and visited our temple to perform Darshan. It was the evening time of closing our temple. A little girl of 06 years of that family stood in front of the closed doors of the inner temple and stared at the door for 05-06 minutes, then she cried and fell unconscious. When inquired, her parents informed that, their daughter had insisted that, she would join them in their journey only if they take him to Shree Swaminarayan temple to perform *Darshan*!

There are evidences which remind us that, Shreeji Maharaj is present in all of our temples established by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, here activity of *Satsang* is going on all well.

(Con. on Page 15)

Kartik Sud-11 is pious day to Remember Dharma

understood as *Dharma* and those which are not praised should be understood as *Adharma*. *Vidya* (Knowledge), *Laxmi* (Wealth), Beauty of Human Body, Bravery, to take Birth in Noble Family etc. prevail with *Dharma* only. Those persons leave this world while remembering Dharma, they get place in heaven. Only *Dharma* accompanies a human soul after death whereas all other things are left on this earth only. Human life is very inconstant and therefore one should perform *Sadhna* of *Dharma*. And to observe all the directions of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is real *Dharma*.

Dharmdev is the root of Dharma and therefore in many temples of our *Sampradaya*, Shree Hari has also installed and performed invocation of the idol images of Dharmdev and Bhaktimata along with His Own Form. Shree Hari has established two Seats in this *Dharmkul* at Ahmedabad and Vadtal. Appointment on these seats of *Acharya* is made from *Dharmkul* only.

It is therefore an humble prayer at the lotus like feet of Shree Hari that, "You may always stay in our heart alongwith your parents- Dharmdev and Bhaktimata and bless us that we may progress in our life with *Dharm* and *Bhakti*.

Pilgrimage to Badrinarayan-Kedarnath in pious company of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj

- Prahladbhai Patel (Karjisanwala)

One gets eternal peace by performing pilgrimage of holy and religious places. One gets glimpse of divine *Charitra* of Almighty Lord. At the places like Pulhashram and Chhapaiya one experiences divine presence of Almighty Lord. And one witnesses miracles when such a pilgrimage is performed with some great and divine person.

The lands of Badrinath-Kedarnath are considered as Land of the Deities in the scriptures. Pilgrimage of H.H. 1008 Shri Mota Maharaj along with saints and devotees from 5th October 2010 to 12th October 2010, organized on the occasion of Patotsav of Badrinarayan temple, would be very memorable.

In the early morning on 5th October 2010, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, Mahant Shastri Harikrishnadasji of Kalupur temple, Saints and *Haribhaktas* of India and America reached to Dehradun via Delhi in Kingfisher Airlines. From there they reached our Shree Swaminarayan temple at Haridwar and graced the pious bank of *Harki Pedi*- the holy river Ganga to perform aarti.

The next day journey started and reached at the foothills of Kedarnath and took rest in Himalaya Resort. In the morning graced temple of Kedarnath to perform divine Darshan in helicopter- whose services are being provided by Himalaya Helly Service and performed Poojan. Pilgrimage to Kedarnath is very difficult one.

In the morning all reached Gupta Kashi, Sundrive Motel and took rest. Though there were difficulties for some of the devotees to reach at the Motel but with the blessings of Shree Hari and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj all reached at the Motel safely. The next day H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced Shree Badrinarayan temple to perform divine Darshan. There *Shrimad Satsangijivan Pancham Parayan* was organized by H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala. All the devotees availed the benefit of this *Katha* from the erudite spokesperson Sadguru Shastri Nirgundasji. In the evening devotees availed the benefit of Divine *Darshan* of *SaNdhya Aarti* in the pious company of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. The next day, all visited the places and performed *Darshan* of *Vyas Gufa, Ganesh Gufa*, river *Saraswati, Bhimshila, Vasudhara, Muchkund Gufa, Charanpaduka, Nilkanth Mountain, Alaknanda river Tapta Kund, Garud Shila* and *Naradshila*.

In the next day morning devotees availed the benefit of divine *Darshan* of *Abhishek* of Shri Harikrishna Maharaj, *Annakut Darshan*, *Saintvani*, blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and *Mahaprasad* on the divine occasion of *Patotsav* of Shree Badrinarayan temple. Many devotees rendered their services for new temple and place of residence. Mahant Shastri Golokvihari Swami had made beautiful arrangements on the occasion of *Patotsav*.

The next day, the pilgrims visited the places Hanuman Chatti, mountain range of *Devbhumi*, flowing streams and performed divine i. Many *Haribhaktas* from America and London had also participated in this pilgrimage and felt themselves obliged and lucky.

OUR FUTURE FESTIVALS

Magsar Sud-5 : On Friday 10/12/2010, *Patotsav* of Shri Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar (Sector-2).

Magsar Sud-6 : On Saturday 11/12/2010 *Patotsav* of Shri Swaminarayan temple, Himatnagar.

16th December-2010 to 14th January 2011 : Dhoon Mahotsav during the pious Dhanur Maas shall be celebrated in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad and all other Swaminarayan temples of Shri Narnarayandev Desh Diocese.

Ardent Devotees of Shree Swaminarayan Museum

From Khat Muhurt of Shree Swaminarayan Museum - divine concept of our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj – till date we have witnessed many miracles. Our devotees Jethabhai Mithabhai Rathod (Age 90 years, retired primary teacher from Viramgam) and his wife Kantabaen (Age 81 years) are residing in Vadapol of Khadia city area of Ahmedabad. They have one son Harshadbhai, who is mentally retarded and is studying in a school of Special Education for Mentally Retarded.

The husband and the wife cherish ardent faith and devotion towards our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and *Shree Swaminarayan Museum*. With the inspiration of Shreeji Maharaj, this old aged husband and wife rendered the services for our *Shree Swaminarayan Museum*. In fact they do not have means of earning nor do they have any properties; moreover, they are getting pension of Rs.4,000/- only. From such a small amount, they maintain their livelihood and yet they cherished noble desire to render services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum and rendered their valuable services. Really great are such devotees. (Praful Kharsani)

Pad Yatra of Shree Swaminarayan Museum

One Satsangi family is residing in a village very close to the city of Ahmedabad. The whole family has been ardent devotee of our Sampradaya and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the whole Dharmkul. Yet sometimes such devotees have to pass through critical condition of life. Before some time the young son of this family developed strange illness which could not be cured of even by the Specialist doctors and physicians. His weight was reducing day by day and no medicine nor any diagnosis was effective. Despite this, the whole family used to come to *Shree Swaminarayan Museum* to perform divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. All of a sudden an idea struck to the family. They decided to perform pious and holy *Padyatra* of *Shree Swaminarayan Museum*!!! This place is very pious and holy where *Maha Vishnu Yaag* is performed, where Shatamrut Patotsav of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev is celebrated and our H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj has performed *Khat-Muhurt* of *Shree Swaminarayan Museum*; moreover, this land is also sanctified with the lotus-like feet of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. The family performed *Padyatra* of our *Shree Swaminarayan Museum* and also performed divine *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj; the very next week, Medical Reports of the deceased son were normal; and now today the young son is hale and healthy!!! This is the result of pious *Padyatra* of *Shree Swaminarayan Museum*. (Dharmendrabhai Patel)

Offering of Iron Sphere of Prasadi of Kala Bhagat of Kundal to Shree Swaminarayan Museum

Kala Bhagat is very famous name in the history of our Sampradaya. Resident of the village Kundal, Kala Bhagat was an ardent devotee of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. By remembering the name of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, Kala Bhagat had held the burning iron sphere in his hand and thereby he had proved the Truth of his ardent *Bhakti*. This iron sphere of Prasadi was offered by the devotee Shri Amrutbhai Sendhabhai Patel to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj for Shree Swaminarayan Museum. On this divine occasion devotee Shri Ramaben- wife of devotee Amrutbhai expressed the feelings of her heart when she stated: *"When we get our daughter married then we also offer the ornaments to her due to our love and affection towards our daughter."* And she offered an amount of Rs.11,000/- along with Iron Sphere of Prasadi – and thereby set forth noble example of an ardent devotee.

સત્સંગ સુરભિ
SATSANG SURBHI

YOU ARE ALMIGHTY LORD

- Atul Bhanuprasad Pothiwala
(Memnagar-Ahmedabad)

Shree Sahjanand Swami transferred the fairs into *Samaiya* and associated them with *Vasant Panchmi, Ramnavmi* etc. festivals. On the occasion of such *Samaiya* everyone would forget their caste and creed and would mingle with the whole society.

One such *Samaiyo* was organized in Gadhpur. Many devotees from different parts of the state had come to Gadhpur to participate in *Samaiyo*. Shreeji Maharaj used to go to them where arrangements for their residence was made and would meet them. At one such place, the devotees informed Maharaj that, with the blessings of Maharaj, *Bhakti* and worship are going on well but some people are creating problems. When Maharaj inquired about such persons, the devotees said that Subaji was the person behind the whole conspiracy. Subaji is against *Sampradaya* and its activities and therefore he harasses all the devotees. Subaji also used to imprisoned the people who would not follow him or obey him.

Once Subaji ordered the soldiers to keep the devotees under the burning Sun in the afternoon. But when his sister Udaykunvarba and her son Baldevkumarji came to know this, they rushed to the devotees. Udaykunvarba and Baldevkumarji had become ardent devotees of *Sampradaya* and therefore they also got ready to suffer the punishment of the scorching heat alongwith other devotees. At last Subaji had to give in for the sake of his sister and all the devotees were released.

Listening to this Shreeji Maharaj consoled the devotees and assured them that He would come to Visnagar. Here Samaiyo was concluded peacefully with the joy and pleasure of everybody. All took leave and permission of Maharaj and went to their home. Thereafter at night Shreeji Maharaj started His journey on His Manki horse towards Visnagar. Mulji Brahmchari was following Maharaj. though Maharaj asked Mulji Brahmchari not to come with him but Mulji Brahmchari was ardent devotee of Maharaj and he did not want to leave Maharaj alone and therefore Maharaj took him with him.

Maharaj graced Visnagar and the house of Udaykunvarba who warmly welcomed Maharaj. When the people of Visnagar came to know about the arrival of Maharaj, they all thronged together to get divine Darshan of Maharaj. Maharaj sent the message of his arrival to Visnagar to Subaji through his nephew Baldevji. When Subaji heard this, he was very angry, he sent armed Arab soldiers to imprison Maharaj.

When Maharaj heard that, Subaji has sent the soldiers to catch him, then Maharaj asked Mulji Brahmchari to apply Bhabhut upon his body and gave him a stick and asked him to follow his directions. When the soldiers of Subaji came to Maharaj, Maharaj asked Mulji to stretch the stick towards the captain of the soldiers. The moment Mulji Brahmchari stretched the stick towards the captain, he slept into Samadhi. The captain was Muslim by caste; in his state of Samadhi, the Captain had had Darshan of his Khuda-Allah in Maharaj. The captain bowed down to Maharaj and returned to Subaji and narrated everything. While they were discussing the matter, Shreeji Maharaj and Mulji Brahmchari came there. When Subaji bowed down to Shreeji Maharaj, Maharaj told him that it was not proper that he should harass the devotees of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. Maharaj also explained to him

that, if Subaji would continue with his harassments then he would go to hell after his death. But Subaji was not ready to listen to Maharaj.

Then Shreeji Maharaj stared at Subaji and Subaji slept into Samadhi. In his state of Samadhi, Subaji saw many human souls being tortured in various manner in Yampuri. He witnessed the miseries and woes that the people were suffering in the hell. When Shreeji Maharaj again looked at Subaji, he returned to his normal condition; but he was shivering with fear of the Hell which he had experienced in his state of *Samadhi*. He fell at the lotus like feet of Shreeji Maharaj and begged pardon. He also requested Shreeji Maharaj to forgive him and ardently requested Maharaj to bless him by granting him ardent devotion. The Almighty and Merciful Shreeji Maharaj blessed Subaji and Subaji became ardent devotee of our *Sampradaya*.

(Con. on Page 22)

Celebration of *Dipotsavi* and *Annakutotsav* in Bhuj by Shree Sahjanand Swami

Ishwarlal, Gor Hariram, Gor Bhavanidas etc. Brahmins started prepared various types of meals for *Annakut*.

Under the auspices of Shri Sahjanand Swami and honouring the invitation, devotees from all direction and regions came to Bhuj. Devotees from Pavarpatti, Banni, Vagad, Anjar Chovisi, Bhuvad Chovisi, Halar Chovisi and Muni Mandal from the whole of the country came to Bhuj. In the company of Mulji Brahmchari and Muni Mandal, Shreeji Maharaj visited Pakshala. Everyone was surprised as Shreeji Maharaj was seen in Two Forms. In One Form Maharaj graced *Pakshala* of ladies devotees along with *Parshad* and in Other Form Annakut was offered in front of idol image of Balmukundji in *Pakshala* of gents devotees. In this way Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan celebrated *Annakut Utsav* in Bhuj with great fervour and enthusiasm along with thousands of saints and devotees.

(Con. on Page 25)

Creation of *Nirvikalp Uttam Pada*

purpose. Maharaj asked Premanand Swami to perform *'Chandrayan Vrat'* as a mark of repentance for his mistake. Premanand Swami ardently begged pardon of Maharaj and went to Nityanand Swami and requested him to narrate all the principles and rules of *Sampradaya* to him. Nityanand Swami started narrating them, the discourse continued for three days. While listening to this discourse, Premanand Swami selected the best sermons and while using his poetic skill, he created beautiful *Pada* beginning with ***'Nirvikalp Uttam Ati'***.

"નિર્વિકલ્પ ઉત્તમઅતિ, નિશ્ચય તવ ઘનશ્યામ,
માહાત્મજ્ઞાનયુક્ત ભક્તિ તવ, એકાંતિક
સુખધામ."

Premanand Swami learned this *Kirtan-Pada* by heart and in the *Sabha* organized in the evening presented it before Shreeji Maharaj. Shreeji Maharaj carefully listened to each line of this *Pada*. When *Kirtan-Pada* was completed and Premanand Swami bowed down at the lotus like feet of Shreeji Maharaj, Maharaj embraced him with great joy and pleasure. Then Shreeji Maharaj directed all the saints and devotees that henceforth this *Kirtan-Pada* created by Premanand Swami would be the part of *Nitya-Path* and every devotee who would perform it regularly will get the result of performing One Path of the scripture *'Shiksha Patri'*.

From that day onwards and even today, this *Kirtan-pada* of Premanand Swami is performed in our temples with dome as well as in Hari-temples of villages after *Sandhya aarti* and that also without any musical instrument.

SECRET OF DIPAWALI

-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

Every year the festival of Diwali comes and goes; we have witnessed so many such festivals in our life. But until we understand the real meaning and importance of such festivals, we cannot get its true benefit and the lamps which are lit outside do not enlighten and dispel the darkness within us. Let us understand the importance of this Festival of Lights with one example.

In one village there was Ashram of one Mahatmaji (saint). This great saint was very learned and pious. He would never speak anything and would always keep mum. Whenever any difficult would be in trouble and seek his guidance, he would answer the questions very briefly and would again start chanting the name of Almighty Lord.

Once a group of devotees came to Mahatmaji. All stated together that they were very unhappy and are perturbed with the Darkness in the village. After the sunset they cannot do anything in the village. Therefore, they requested him to find out the solution. The villagers were very innocent and ignorant and they did not know anything.

Mahatmaji was silent. He drew a picture of a lamp, wink and a bowl of oil on a plain paper and handed over the picture to the villagers. The villagers were very much happy. They returned to the village and started worshipping the picture!!! But there was no light in the village. These villagers had ardent faith in the words of Mahatmaji and therefore they increased their *poojan-archan* of the picture, but in vain. They did not succeed because they did not try to understand the real meaning of what Mahatmaji wanted to tell them. Their all efforts and sincerity in worshipping the picture were useless.

સત્સંગ બાલવાટિકા

SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

In the same way Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has shown all the ways of happiness and emancipation in human life in His pious scriptures like 'Shiksha-Patri' but it is useful only if we understand its real meaning and importance from our saints. Brahmanand Swami has stated :

"સખી હૈડે તે હરખ ન માય આજ દિવાળી રે,
હું તો મગન થઈ મનમાંય ભૂધર ભાળી રે."

"Whenever we perform divine Darshan of Almighty Lord, that Day is Diwali for us.
As it brings eternal peace and happiness in our heart."

રૂડો દિવાળીનો દિવસ કે, મંગળ ગાઈએ રે,
લઈ મેરાઈયા લાલજી રે, આવશે આપણે ઘેર
બ્રહ્માનંદ કહે ઘી ઘણું માંહી, પુરશું સારી પેર
મંગળ ગાઈએ રે.....

If we understand the real meaning of Bhakti, Satsang and Upasana, then as Brahmanand Swami says, Almighty Lord will certainly grace our home. Jay Shree Swaminarayan and Happy New Year to all the readers-*Haribhaktas* of *'Satsang Balvatika'*.

•

TRUST IN THE SCRIPTURES WORKS

- Sadhu Shrirang Maharaj (Gandhinagar)

દિવાળી આવી રે, આજ મારે દિવાળી આવી"

How will you celebrate the Festival of Diwali? By purchasing new clothes or by decorating your house? By preparing and relishing the sweets? In what manner you celebrate *Diwali*, but you should not forget

as to due to whose blessings we are happy? So let us dispel mistrust and superstition from our life and progress in our life through *Satsang*. Let us always remain under the directions of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. We should try to know 'Wish' of Almighty Lord and should try to fulfill it ardently then Lamps of *Bhakti* (worship) and *Sadgun* (noble qualities) will be lit in our life. Let us understand this with a small story.

There was a poor Brahmin. He has ardent faith and trust in the great scripture *'Bhagwat Gita'*. His wife was also very learned. Both husband and wife used to sit together and read *'Bhagwat Gita'*. There is one *Shloka* in *'Bhgwat Gita'*:

અનન્યાશ્ચિન્તયન્તોમાં યેજનાઃ પર્યુપાસતે,
તેષાં નિત્યાભિયુક્તાનાં યોગક્ષેમો વહામ્યહમ્.

"Those who worship me ardently,
those who think about me,
their emancipation is very easy.
Even the worldly affairs of such an ardent devotee are taken care of by Me."

The wife of the Brahmin thought that, "My husband has ardent faith in *'Bhagwat Gita'*. But then why we are unhappy?" she thought there is something wrong with *Shloka* of the great scripture and she started arguing with her husband. Brahmin did not argue with her but went to the bank of the river at the outskirts of the village. There he took bath and took rest under a tree. He was tired and fell asleep due to smooth breeze. At home his wife was waiting for her. She was sitting waiting worriedly. Meanwhile a teenager boy aged 17 years came to their home. The boy was in rags and was bleeding at his forehead. He was carrying a big box on his head. He handed over the box to the wife of the Brahmin saying that, the box was sent by the Brahmin. When the wife opened the box, there was gold in it. She was surprised, such a huge quantity of gold. She asked who the boy was. The boy replied that his name was Pashlo. But the wife of the Brahmin addressed him as Purushottam and offered a glass of water and asked for his remuneration. But the boy refused the remuneration and told that, the Brahmin had greatly helped him in his difficulties and therefore he could not think about accepting the remuneration and he went away.

In the afternoon, the Brahmin returned home. His wife rebuked him stating that, he should not have sent the box of gold with a stranger. But the Brahmin said that, he had not sent anything nor any boy. The wife took him inside the house and showed him the gold and narrated him everything. Listening to all this, the Brahmin understood everything. He reminded his wife about the Shloka of *'Bhagwat Gita'*. He said that, these words of this *Shloka* are the words of Almighty Lord Shree Krishna and that boy Pashlo was no one else but Purushottam Narayam Himself. The wife of the Brahmin begged pardon of her husband and also of the Lord Shree Krishna. Once again the husband and the wife sat together and started reading the great scripture *'Bhagwat Gita'*. Almighty Lord was pleased with their ardent worship and granted them divine *Darshan* and asked them always to have ardent faith in Him.

What we have to understand from this little story is that, if we shall have ardent and complete faith in Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan then there will always be *Diwali* in the life of such a devotee. Brahmanand Swami says:

બ્રહ્માનંદના રે વાલા તમસંગ રમતા મારે,
દાડી દાડી છે દિવાળી,
હૈડામાં મુને વાલા લાગો છો વનમાળી.

ભક્તિસુધા
BHAKTI-SUDHA

DEVELOPING EQUANIMITY FROM BLESSINGS OF H.H. SHRI GADIWALA

- Complied by Kotal Varsha Natvarlal (Ghodasar)

Ashadh Sud-11 is a pious day of *Ekadashi* of performing *Niyam*. In the divine *Sabha* of this day, H.H. Shri Gadiwala blessed all ladies devotees and directed that, *"all of us have to observe the rules of Chatur Maas, as prescribed by Shreeji Maharaj in the pious 'Shiksha Patri'. One can observe various types of Niyam during the pious Chatur Maas. But one should prefer any such Niyam as per her own temperament which is comparatively easier to observe. Besides all Niyam, I give you one Niyam from my side. "Never be jealous of anybody and never speak foul words for anybody." In short one has to nurture purification simplicity of heart. If one lives a simple life without fear, greed, jealousy one feels divine happiness and one can feel Grace of God in his life. Thus, one has to avoid the inner enemies. Almighty Lord has stressed and also directed that, if all these things are observed besides all other Niyam then only your life would be worth and you will progress spiritually. We should not look at the faults of others as we have no such right. If we want then we should look at our own faults":*

નિજદોષ દર્શન વિના, બંધન ભવોભવ તણું,
ખૂલે સમદૃષ્ટિ સ્વદોષ દેખ્યાથી, તરે ભવસાગર ઘણું,

There is tremendous strength in the above *Niyam* given by our H.H. Shri Gadiwala that, if we understand its secret then we can feel and experience emancipation on this Earth only. Our life would become very simple and we would feel and experience Divine *Parmatma*. If we find faults with ourselves, we have become conscious about ourselves. It is essential to have such consciousness. A thief can hide in a house, until the owner of the house is unaware about it. When the owner comes to know about, the thief would immediately run away. And therefore our H.H. Shri Gadiwala has directed all of us to look at our own faults. So let us scrupulously follow the directions of H.H. Shri Gadiwala and start looking at our own faults. The thief hidden in ourselves would run away. Even Shreeji Maharaj has directed in *'Vachanamrit'*:

"A person who tries to know about his own faults and starts removing them then his such efforts would prove helpful to achieve emancipation in life and such a person would be considered as prudent."

•

TRUST AND FAITH IN SURRENDERING

- Sankhya Yogi Kokilaba (Surendranagar)

Every soul or animal on this earth is dependant upon others. This dependence may be for survival, for subsistence or for nourishment. Sadguru Gunatitanand Swami has stated that, Surrendering is very great in itself. Without surrendering ourselves to Almighty Lord, our soul does not get emancipation. In *Vachanamrit-31* of *Gadhada Middle Chapter*, Shreeji Maharaj has stated that among all means and types of Surrendering, surrendering to God is the best means.

Here surrendering involved having complete trust. When there is no such trust or faith, a feeling suspicion arises in the mind which gradually weakens Surrender. And therefore one should be very careful and cautious in this regard and then he should take any action. In surrendering there should be feeling of unity. When one surrenders himself completely and does not look outside then Almighty Lord is

pleased and as a result thereof He becomes our own which gives us tremendous happiness in life.

There was a young boy named Kelvo of twelve-thirteen years. At a very young age his parents had passed away and therefore he was residing in a village with his elder brother and sister-in-law. He was brought up under the parenthood of his elder brother. Both the brothers loved each other very much. But the sister-in-law did not like this younger brother Kelvo. She used to harass him so that he may run away from house. But Kelvo was very innocent, low profiled simpleton boy; he was also an ardent devotee. He was interested in listening to *Katha-Kirtan* and performing *Bhakti* of Almighty Lord. He used to listen everything carefully and would remember everything at one reading only. While going to the fields to graze the cows, he used to ponder over the incidents of *Katha* and the words of *Kirtan*. And therefore he had ardent faith in Almighty Lord; in fact he had completely surrendered himself to Almighty Lord.

But his sister-in-law could not tolerate all this and therefore she misguided her husband that, his younger brother is learning Black Magic and he is planning to kill his brother the next morning and therefore she wished that, he should be driven out of home. The husband was convinced and he ordered his younger brother Kelvo to go out of his home. The innocent Kelvo did not understand as to why he is being driven out of home. But being directed, he started walking out of home with a stick in his hand. On his way he asked the villagers, where should he go as his brother has driven him out of home. The villagers were in funny mood, they asked him to go to Almighty Lord. When Kelvo inquired about the residence of Almighty Lord, the villagers answered that the Lord lives in Dwarika and on being inquired Kelvo was asked to go towards the West. Kelvo was very innocent and simpleton boy. He started walking towards the West. He had only one wish in his heart, to go to Almighty Lord and to tell him everything. He crossed all rivers, forests, valleys and kept on his journey day and night thirsty and hungry. After five days he saw flag of a temple from a distance; but he was very much tired and exhausted with his hunger and thirst. He was limping towards the temple and at last reached at the steps of the temple; it was the Sun-set already and time of *Aarti* of temple. Now he was completely exhausted and could not walk even a step. When he saw the high stairs of the temple, he was depressed. But he was equally eager to meet Bhagwan!!! Meanwhile he heard the closing of the gates of the temple. While closing the gates of the temple, *Poojari* asked him who he was and what he wanted. Kelvo said that he wanted to meet *Bhagwan*. *Poojari* smiled at him and said that, now Bhagwan will meet him tomorrow and then he went away. Kelvo was lying there on the floor. He ardently requested Almighty Lord to grant him divine *Darshan*.

Suddenly a voice came from the temple, *"Kelva! Come here. My all the doors are always open for you."* Kelvo was surprised and he asked who the Voice was? He heard the reply, *"I am Bhagwan."* Kelvo was very much happy to hear this, but he said that, he was not able to walk anymore and therefore Bhagwan should go to him. Suddenly the whole temple changed its direction facing its entrance towards the West. From the temple Almighty God came and embraced him and made him eternally happy. Since then till today, the temple of Dwarika is there with its entrance facing the West.

Kelvo was going to listen to *Katha-Kirtan* and from there he became an ardent devotee and his faith and trust upon God were strengthened and hence he could get divine *Darshan* of Almighty Lord. So we

should also observe *Niyam* of listening to *Katha-Kirtan* of Bhagwan and should have ardent faith and complete trust upon Almighty Lord. Then only we will get divine *Darshan* of Almighty Lord.

•

NILKANTHVARNI IN BOCHASAN

- Tarlaben Atulbhai Pothiwala (Ahmedabad)

Kanji Patel was an ardent devotee of Bhagwan. Once he was sleeping at night. In his dream he heard, *"Stand up! Kandas, Lord of this Universe has graced your village. Go there, invite him to your house, render your services to Him. You would be the luckiest person of this world. Go quickly, otherwise He would go away."*

Kandas woke up immediately from his bed. Washed his face, went to his mother and narrated everything. The old mother became very happy and she asked her son to invite the Lord at home as she had prepared the meals Brahmins. After Kandas went away, she told this to her younger son and his wife. In no time, the whole village came to know about arrival of Nilkanthvarni in the village. All the people got together; Kandas requested Nilkanthvarni to grace his house. Accepting his invitation Nilkanthvarni graced his house. Kandas' mother offered him the meals; but Nilkanthvarni did not take it. Nilkanthvarni stated that if would be better if he is offered rice and milk. But it was noon time and there was no milk in the house. But wife of Kandas had ardent faith in Nilkanthvarni so she went to buffalo to milk her. Generally buffalo does not give milk in the afternoon and does not allow to milk her. But today, surprisingly she allowed the wife Kandas to milk her and the whole bowl was filled up with milk. Thereafter the mother of Kandas offered rice and milk to Nilkanthvarni. Nilkanthvarni accepted the meals and blessed the whole family and said that the whole family would be ardent devotee and He would again grant divine *Darshan* in Vadtal after ten years. The whole family felt itself greatly obliged and blessed.

•

ARDENT WORSHIP AND SERVICE OF SAINTS

- Parmar Bhumika Bhagwanjibhai (Surat)

Dear *Bhaktas*! Present time is of *Kaliyug*. And we are fortunate that, even in such *Kaliyug* we have got introduction of Purna Purushottam Swaminarayan Bhagwan. There cannot be better gain in life; and therefore it is our ardent duty to always remain under the directions of Shree Hari. Today crores of people are devotees of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. But it is our great saints who have suffered a lot for establishing and strengthening our *Sampradaya* and we should not forget this fact.

Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan directed all the Saints that, they should not demand anything from any devotee; they should accept whatever is offered to them. Accordingly a saint went to one devotee for *Bhiksha*. At home there was no male member; the wife was there and she was very angry as she had quarreled with her husband in the morning. She was *Tamasi* by her temperament. When the saint came, she was cleaning the floor of the house. She was very angry and it is stated in Vachanamrit that, one should not trust a man who is angry, as such an angry man can speak and do anything without giving any thought.

When the angry wife saw the saint at her doorstep she became angry. She threw the cleaning cloth upon the face of the saint; the cloth dropped in the bowl from the face of the saint. Now as per the directions of Shree Hari the saints have to accept whatever is offered to them. The saint came back. He prepared the winks from the cleaning cloth with the help of ghee which he had with him. In the evening the

saint performed *aarti* of Bhagwan by using the winks made of that cleaning cloth. During the *aarti,* the light of the lamp spread all over the village and it reached into the house of the devotee. In the house, husband and wife were discussing what happened in the course of the day. The wife was now calm and she was repenting acknowledging how rudely she behaved with the saint in the morning. She asked her husband to find out that saint and call him at home as she wanted to beg pardon.

The husband went in search of the saint holding a stick in his hand. When he reached at the bank of the pond, he saw two saints there and presumed that, these must be the saints who had been to his home in the morning. He was right in his presumption. He begged pardon of the saints on behalf of his wife for whatever happened in the morning and ardently requested them to grace his house. The next day the saints graced the house of the husband and the wife again. Due to blessings of the saints, the husband and wife became our ardent devotees.

This shows how tolerant our saints are. How much pain and difficulties they tolerate with smiling face? It is with their devout efforts that, the base of our *Sampradaya* is strengthened. And therefore all *Haribhaktas* should observe all directions and *Niyam* which are prescribed in our scriptures and should perform ardent *Bhakti*. We should also be always ready to follow the directions of our Guru H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwal and Other Form of Shree Hari, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj.

•

BHAKTI WITHOUT MAHATMYA

- Patel Anjana R. (Vajapar)

Bhakti of Almighty Bhagwan is the best thing in the world and this *Bhakti* should be performed with *Dharma*. Without *Dharma*, this *Bhakti* is incomplete and it is not real *Bhakti*, if it is performed with *Dharma*.

One saint made one farmer our *Satsangi* by offering him *Kanthi*. The saint preached the sermons to him and said that, he should perform *Bhakti* and *Bhajan* and he would be happy. The farmer nodded obediently. The saint was happy to know that, he had an obedient devotee with him. When the farmer went home, his wife informed him that one of the two buffaloes had just died. The farmer asked when did it happened? The wife said, *"Before fifteen minutes."* The farmer was shocked at this because just before fifteen minutes he was offered *Kanthi* by the saint. This farmer was illiterate and he had no knowledge about Dharma and so he thought that, this happened because that saint offered him the *Kanthi*. He narrated everything to his wife. Both the husband and wife presumed that, it was because of the offering of *Kanthi* that their buffaloed died and so decided to return the *Kanthi* to the saint. The farmer ran to the saint and told him about the death of his buffalo and tried to return the *Kanthi* to him. The saint was very sane and prudent and well experienced. He smiled at such childish conclusion of the illiterate farmer. Immediately saint said that, if he would take out the *Kanthi*, his second buffalo will also die. The farmer was frightened and confused at this; he rushed home and told his wife about this. His wife was also illiterate. Both the husband and the wife discussed the matter and decided that, now they should preserve this *Kanthi* anyhow otherwise their only buffalo will die. Thus, the husband and wife were always careful and cautious about *Kanthi*. As the time passed, the farmer developed affection towards the saint. He started coming regularly to the saint and listening *Katha* and *Kirtans* from the saints. Gradually the farmer became an ardent devotee. Later on both the husband and wife understood their immaturity and begged pardon of the saint. (Source : ***'Shiksha Patri Bhasya'***)

Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration Mahotsav
[From 05/03/2010 to 09/03/2010]

Jay Shree Swaminarayan to all *Haribhaktas* and devotees residing in different parts and countries of the world.

We all know that, inauguration function of noble concept of Shree Swaminarayan Museum of our H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj is coming closer. Under the Chairmanship of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj this *Utsav* will be celebrated from 05/03/2010 to 09/03/2010. (Inauguration of Museum will be performed on 08/03/2010).

All *Haribhaktas* and devotees of Shree Hari residing in different countries of the world are cordially invited to participate in this *Utsav*. At the same it is also essential that, proper and beautiful arrangements are made for our devotees coming from abroad. And therefore, those devotees coming from abroad are requested that they may kindly furnish their detailed programme to the following representatives of their country about their visit to India and participation in Inauguration Function viz. when they are arriving to Ahmedabad and which type of facilities they expect from Shree Swaminarayan temple such as accommodation, vehicle-car etc. including any other requirements they may want. Considering this venue as their own home, all *Haribhaktas* are requested to feel free in telling what they want so that necessary arrangements can be made. Perhaps many of these *Haribhaktas* may be staying with their own relatives then also they are requested to furnish such information also to the following representative of their country.

Such an intimation/ information from your side is very essential for your own arrangement and also for our hospitality and therefore all of you are requested to extend their generous co-operation in this regard.

INDIA

(1) Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji
Ph. : 0091 98790 03379
E-mail : rajuswami18@yahoo.com

(2) Mr. Tushar Dashrathbhai Patel - A'bad
Ph. : 0091 99780 66166

(3) Mr. Bharat Kantlal Thakar - A'bad
Ph. : 0091 99250 27662
E-mail : bktthakkar@gmail.com

(4) Mr. Pankat Ramanbhai Bhavsar - A'bad
Ph. : 0091 99258 48249

(5) Mr. Zaverbhai - A'bad
Ph. : 0091 98258 87453

(6) Mr. Prakashbhai - A'bad
Ph. : 0091 98256 00136

U.S.A.

(1) Mr. Jagdish Patel - Chicago
Ph. : 001-708-945-9390
E-mail : jjack_patel@hotmail.com

(2) Mr. Prakash Patel - Clevaland
Ph. : 001-216-849-9206
E-mail : cle.isso@gmail.com

(3) Mr. Ishwar Chaudhary - L.A.
Ph. : 001-949-292-8035
E-mail : ishwar67@gmail.com

(4) Mr. Rajesh Patel - C'hill
Ph. : 001-302-897-6729
E-mail : rajeshpushpa3@yahoo.com

(5) Mr. Pankaj Patel - N.J.
Ph. : 001-201-233-7576
E-mail : jumpn04@gmail.com

(6) Mr. Nimesh Patel - C.N.J.
Ph. : 001-732-447-3814
E-mail : patelnimesh@gmail.com

U.K.

(1) Mr. Ashok Naran Hirani
Ph. : 0044-797-326-6887
E-mail : info@intertherm.co.uk

(2) Mr. Yogesh Patel - Leicester
Ph. : 0044-782-541-4044
E-mail : yogi.j.patel@hotmail.co.uk

(3) Mr. Shivjibhai Premji Hirani - Willsdenlane
Ph. : 0044-208-459-4506, 208-968-9752
E-mail : info@shreeswaminarayan.org.uk

(4) Mr. Suresh Patel - Harrow
Ph. : 0044-791-708-0601

AUSTRALIA

(1) Mr. Nilesh Patel - Sydney
Ph. : 0061-423-600-493
E-mail : dearneel2000@yahoo.com

(2) Mr. Jayesh Patel - Sydney
Ph. : 0061-432-229-227
E-mail : jkdpatel@yahoo.com.au

(3) Mr. Bobby Dave - Sydney
Ph. : 0061-415-966-739
E-mail : davevishad@gmail.com

(4) Mr. Dipak Raghvani - Melbourne
Ph. : 0061-421-506-666
E-mail : deep.raghvani@gmail.com

(5) Mr. Ravjibhai Halai- Perth
Ph. : 0061-427-475-979
E-mail : rhalai@bigpond.net.au

NEWZEALAND

(1) Mr. Dr. Kanti Patel
Ph. : 0064-212-464-710
E-mail : kanti@ethc.co.nz

AFRICA

(1) Mr. Virji Raghvani - Nairobi
Ph. : 00254-722-528-333
E-mail : arvind@laxconke.com

(2) Mr. Dinesh Hirani - Mombasa
Ph. : 00254-733-614-441
E-mail : dinshirani@yahoo.com

(3) Mr. Kurjibhai - Nairobi (Tabanu)
Ph. : 00254-722-521-636

(4) Mr. Ramjibhai - Eldoret
Ph. : 00254-733-634-769

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

Sharadotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad

In the pious company of the Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, *Shri Narnarayandev Auchav Mandal* performed *Kirtans* of Nand saints while celebrating traditional *Sharadotsav* in the temple premises of our Shree Narnarayandev temple, Ahmedabd on the pious day of *Aaso Sud-15 Sharad Poonam*. Under the guidance of Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishandasji of Ahmedabad temple and Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, saint *Mandal* had made beautiful arrangements. At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj performed *Purnahooti Aarti* and all *Haribhaktas* were distributed *'Dudh-Pauva'*. (Shastri Narayanmunidas)

Celebration of Dipotsavi Festival in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad

Group Sharda Poojan : On the pious day of Asdu-14, 05/11/2010 at 6.00 hours in the evening, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj performed the ritual of *Sharda Poojan, Chopda Poojan* in Vedic tradition amongst chanting of Mantras by the Brahmins. In the *Sabha Mandap* of *Prasadi*, more than one thousand businessmen devotees availed the benefit of Group *Sharda Poojan* in the pious company of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj as prescribed in the pious *'Shiksha Patri'*. The whole atmosphere was divine and all were very much happy. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performed *Purnahooti Aarti* of *Sharda Poojan*.

Under the guidance of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple and Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, J.P. Swami, J.K. Swami, Baldev Swami (Bapu Swami), Natu Swami, Shatri Swami Vishwaviharidasji, Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Yogi Swami, Muni Swami, Divyaprakash Swami, Bhushan Bhagat etc. Parshad and Saint Mandal as well as the devotees like Urmik, Hardik, Tapanbhai and staff of Kothar had rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. Camera team of Doordarshand E-TV had made arrangements of Live Telecast of this celebration whose benefit was availed by all the people of the State of Gujarat.

Chhapanbhog Annakut Darshan :- On Saturday 06/11/2010, beautiful Chhapanbhog Annakut was offered to Almighty Lord Shree Narnarayandev. At 12.00 hours in the noon, H.H. Shir Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj performed Annakut Aarti as per the tradition of our Sampradaya. Large number of saints and devotees had thronged together in the temple premises to perform divine Darshan of this occasion. Under the guidance and inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, J.P. Swami, Baldev Swami (Bapu), J.K. Swami, Shastri Swami Vishwaviharidasji, Yogi Swami, Natu Swami, Muni Swami, Divyaprakash Swami, Bhusan Bhagat, Chetan Bhagat, Vaibhav and many other Kathiawari Haribhaktas had rendered their services on this occasion. Bhandari Swami Suryaprakashdasji and made beautiful arrangement in the Bhandar on this occasion of Annakut. On the pious and festive occasion of Dipotsavi, inner temple was decorated and illuminated with lighting lamps.

New Year of Samvat 2067: On Sunday 07/11/2010 the pious day of New Year, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad early in the morning at 5.00 hours to perform *Mangla Aarti*. Thereafter at 6.30 hours Shangaar Aarti was performed by all the Three Forms of Shree Hari and had granted the benefit of divine Darshan to all the saints and Haribhaktas. Thousands of devotees and Haribhaktas had come to the temple to perform Darshan on this pious day. (Shastri Divyaprakashdas)

Celebration of Grand Sharadotsav at Naranghat Shree Swaminarayan temple

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya

1008 Shri Koshalendraprasdji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and whole Dharmkul and also with the inspiration and guidance of Mahant Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji, Grand Sharadotsav was celebrated on 23/10/2010 Aasu Sud-15 Sharad Poonam at our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced this occasion and granted divine Darshan and explained the importance of this occasion. On this occasion inner temple and throne of the Almighty Lord were decorated.

Devotee Shri Prabodhbhai Chhaganlal Zala family through Dr. Nikunj Ghanshyambhai (M.D.) of devotee Bhalja Saheb had rendered services as the host of this Sharadotsav. The host family had performed poojan and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

Devotee Shri Patel Vinodbhai Dahyabhai had rendered services for Pauva and Satsang Samaj of Badpur and Ishwarpura had rendered services for milk, whereas devote Patel Girishbhai Sankalchandbhai had rendered services of sugar. At night after Ras-Garba, all the devotees were offered *Prasad* of *Dudh-Pauva*. Those who played beautiful Ras-Garba were offered Gift of inspiration by Mahant Swami Shastri Harikrishnadasji and its services were rendered by the host family. Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) had conducted the Sabha on this occasion. (Kothari Swami Balswaroopdasji)

Grand Satsang Sabha of Ladies devotees in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat

On the pious day of Tuesday 28/09/2010, grand Satsang Sabha of the ladies devotees was organized in the pious company of H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat, from 2.00 to 4.30 hours in the noon. Sankhya Yogi ladies devotees had explained the importance of Bhagwan Leela Charitra and importance of Dharmkul.

Ladies devotees of Shahibaug, Ranip, New Vadaj, Sabarmati, Meghaninagar and Ghatlodiya had availed this divine benefit. Observing the rules and tradition of our Sampradaya, Shri Ghanshyam Mahila Mandal, Narayanghat, devotees Shri Naranbhai (Gavada), Manibhai (Vagosana) and Bhaktibhai (Deusana) had rendered there services on this occasion. (Pushpaben for Satsang Mahila Mandal)

1008 Group Mahapooja in Karm-Shakti temple

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and the whole Dharmkul and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji (Nana P.P. Swami) of Naranghat temple, 1008 Group Maha Pooja was organized by Shree Swaminarayan temple Karm-Shakti Park on the pious day of 26/09/2010.

Mahapooja as propagated by Sadguru Gopalanand Swami and Sadguru Akhandanand Swami was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj which was organized in connection with Shree Swaminarayan Museum. H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala had also graced the occasion and granted divine Darshan and blessings to all the ladies devotees. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had grace the occasion of concluding ritual of Mahapooja and had performed concluding ritual aarti and had graced the Sabha. In this way, the devotees had availed the benefit of divine Darshan of the whole Dharmkul. Many devotees and Haribhaktas of Bapunagar had rendered their services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

During the whole programme, Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji of Ahmedabad temple and Mahant Nana P.P. Swami of Naranghat temple had provided guidance and inspiration. Mahant Swami Devprakashdaji of Naranghat temple, and Poojari Brahmchari Rajeshwaranandji of the Lord Shri Narnarayandev had also arrived on this occasion.

Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji and Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) had conducted the Sabha organized on this occasion. At last about 4000 Haribhaktas had availed the benefit of Divine Darshan and Prasad. On this occasion about 108 Haribhaktas had donated blood in Blood Donation Camp. (Manoj Patel, Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Bapunagar)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, approach (Bapunagar)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and blessings of the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Swami Laxmanjivandasji of Approach temple, on the pious day of Shri Ganesh Chaturthi, a grand *Ganesh Mahotsav* was celebrated.

On *Bhadarva Sud-11, Jal Jilani Ekadashi* was celebrated on the bank of the pious river Sabarmati and large number of devotees had got together to avail the benefit of divine occasion. Shri *Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal* and *Ghanshyam Mandal* had performed *Raas* in traditional dress. Many devotees had rendered their services for Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)

Celebration of 8th *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Karjisan

8th *Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Karjisan was celebrated on Monday 01/11/2010 in the pious company of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj and the saints. Devotee Shri Vijaybhai Vitthaldas Patel (Florida) had rendered services as the host of this *Patotsav*. Other 21 devotees (America) had rendered their services as co-hosts of the *Patotsav*.

When H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the occasion, ladies devotees performed the ritual of Samaiyo while carrying the water pots on their heads. In the Sabha organized on the occasion, Shastri Anandjivandasji, Shastri Bhaktvatsaldasji and Parshad Jasu Bhagat had rendered their inspirational speeches. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had also released the booklet *'Shri Karjisan Leela Charitra'*. The devotee Shri Prahladbhai Patel had delivered the Vote of Thanks. All the devotees were offered Prasad and one booklet of *'Shri Karjisan Leela Charitra'*.

(Prahladbhai Patel, Karjisan- New Jersey)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bopal

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji and under the guidance of Mahand Sadhu Harivallabhdas, Bhajan, Kirtan and Kathaq were performed beautifully during the holy Chatur Maas. During the pious Shravan Maas, artistic Hindola Darshan was also performed to Thakorji.

From 25/08/2010 to 29/08/2010, *Katha* of Chapter-2 of *'Satsangi Jeevan'* was organized. Shastgri Vrajvallabhdas was the spokesperson of this *Katha*. Shri Krishna Janmastmi Utsav was also celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. on this occasion Kothari Amrubhai patel, Shri K.R.Patel, R.B.Patel, Prashant Vyas and Yuvak Mandal as well as Haribhaktas of Unava village had rendered their services.

(Pravinbhai Upadhyay)

Shri Swaminarayan temple, Dahegam (Tebla Fali

On the pious day of *Kali Chaudhas, Poojan archan* and *aarti* of Shri Hanumanji was temple in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dahegam. On the pious day of *Diwali, Annakut* to Thakorji was performed. Akshar Nivasi Hansaben Harshadbhai Patel family had rendered the services as the host of *Annakut Mahotsav*. All the devotees of the village had performed divine *Darshan*. On this occasion, devotees Taraba, Shobhnaben, Vinaben, Jyotiben, Chhayaben, Vaishaliben and Falguniben had rendered their services. (Arvindbhai Kothari)

Shri Swaminarayan temple, Idar

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji, various types of artistic *Hindola Darshan* was offered to Thakorji in the pious company of Shri Gopinathji Harikrishna Maharaj in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Idar. Moreover, Shri Krishna Janmastmi, 38th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj on the pious day of *Vijayadashmi* and grand *Annakutotsav* to the deities etc. were celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. All *Haribhaktas* had availed the benefit of *Darshan, Katha* and *Varta*.

(Kothari Satyasankalpdas)

Freedom from Addiction Rally in Himatnagar

On the occasion of 38th Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj on the pious day of Vijayadashmi, and with the inspiration of Mahant Shastri Harijivandasji and Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji, a grand rally for 'Freedom from Addiction' was organized in the

city of Himatnagar.

Children of various schools holding banners in their hands had participated in this Rally. They were followed by 08 tractors from where the young devotees were distributing pamphlets and booklets for 'Freedom from Addiction' to all the people of Himatnagar. This campaign was also extended to the nearby villages wherein the saints had also participated. (Tank Arvindbhai, Himatnagar)

Celebration of 38th Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in village Dharampur (Khakharia)

On the pious day of *Vijayadashmi* (*Aaso Sud-10)* on 17/10/2010, *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj was celebrated in the evening from 7.30 hours to 9.30 hours. All the saints and devotees performed *poojan archan* of Thakorji and photo image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj which was followed by *Kirtan-Bhakti* and *Katha-Varta*. All the devotees of the village had availed the benefit of this divine *Prakatyotsav.* (Kothari Kanjibhai Patel)

Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan in Bamroli (Madhya Pradesh)

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Laxminarayandasji, *'Shrimad Bhagwat Saptah Parayan'* was organized from 13/09/2010 to 19/0-9/2010 in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bamroli. Shastri Swami Satyaprakashdasji (Muliwala) was the spokesperson of this Katha-Parayan which was performed very beautifully in Hindi.

Saints and the villagers offered milk to the pious land of the village by performing Pradakshina of the village while offering the milk. Abhishek Poojan of Thakorji and Prasad were organized on this occasion.

(Mahant Swami, Bamroli)

MULI DESH

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Limbdi

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the blessings of Bal Swaroop Shri Ghanshyam Maharaj, Sharadotsav was celebrated in our temple with great fervour and enthusiasm. devotee Shri Soni Batukbhai (Kamalpur) had rendered his services as the host of this Sharadotsav. After great Rasotsav, Group aarti of Thakorji was performed whose benefit was availed by all the devotees with the inspiration of Mahant Swami.

(Poojari Vandanprakashdas)

OVERSEAS NEWS

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vihokan (New Jersey)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant *Gavaiya* Swami Chandraprakashdasji and under the guidance of the enthusiastic devotees Shri Pankaj Patel and Ravi Amin, beautiful and artistic *Hindola Darshan* to Thakorji was performed during the pious *Shravan Maas*. *Gavaiya* Swami Chandraprakash swami had performed *Kirtans* of *Hindola* and *Haribhaktas* had performed *Kirtans* of *Nand Saints*.

During the pious Shravan Maas, Mahant Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji of Ahmedabad temple and Gavaiya Chandraprakashdasji had narrated beautiful Katha. Moreover, H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala and Shri Binduraja, who had graced this occasion, had offered beautiful Thaal through Parshad Vanraj Bhagat to Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji and Gavaiya Chandraprakashdasji who had come with Shree Harikrishna Maharaj.

Celebration of Vijaya Dashmi

On the pious day of *Vijaya Dashmi* on Sunday 17th October 2010 and in the pious company of Shri Binduraja and Shri Suvratkumar and Shri Saumyakumar and Mahant *Gavaiya* Swami Chandraprakashdasji, *Janmotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj was celebrated by all the devotees. first of all *Gavaiya* Swami performed *poojan* of Photo image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and performed Group *aarti* along with *Haribhaktas* and then explained the importance of *Dharmkul* in the *Sabha* organized on the occasion. He had also sung *Kirtan-Pada* of *Dharmkul* created by the *Nand saints* whose benefit was availed by the host devotees. President of the temple devotee Shri Bhaktibhai had made

announcements about the future festivals. Mahant Swami had honoured all the devotees who had rendered their valuable services on this occasion. (Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat)

Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Utsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, *Shri Ganesh Chaturthi Utsav* was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervour in the weekend of September-2010 at 6.00 hours in the evening. The devotee Shri Pinakin Jani had got performed *poojan aarti*. Gavaiya Swami had performed *Kirtans* explaining the importance of Shri Ganpatiji.

Celebration of 38th Prakatyotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia

Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj was celebrated by thousands of devotees of Vihokan, Cherry Hill, Parcipeny, New York and Colonia in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia. Moreover, the Foundation Day of I.S.S.O. was also celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm on the pious day of *Vijayadashmi*. Gavaiya Chandraprakash Swwami and Gyanprakashdasji Swami and *Haribhaktas* performed *poojan archan* of Photo image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and celebrated *Janmotsav* in a divine way. Shri Bindu Raja and Shri Suvratkumar and Shri Saumyakumar had also graced this divine occasion and had cut birthday cake. Mahant Swami had explained the importance of *Dharmkul*.

Celebration of 5th Patotsav in Colonia temple

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, 5th *Patotsav* of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia, was celebrated in the pious company of H.H.Shri Acharya Mahraj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala, Shri Binduraja, Shri Suvratkumar, Shri Saumyakumar, and the saints like Shri P.P. Swami, Shri Narayanvallabhdasji Swami, Shastri Shreeji Swami, Mahant Shastri Swami Dharmvallabhdasji, Poojari Haarinandan Swami Mahant Swami Vishwaprakashdasji of Cherry Hill temple, Mahant Chandraprakashdasji of Vihokan temple and Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat. *Patotsav Abhishek* of Thakorji was performed in Vedic tradition. On this occasion, Shastri Swami Shreejiprakashdasji performed *Van-vicharan Katha* in a very beautiful way. Ladies devotees had also performed beautiful *Pothi-yatra* on this occasion. The host devotee family had offered *Aahuti* in *Vishnu Yaag*. *Haribhaktas* had performed *Swagat-Poojan* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and *Brahmnistha* saints and obtained their blessings. Ladies devotees had also performed *Swagat-Poojan* of H.H. Shri Mota Gadiwala and Shir Binduraja and obtained the blessings. At last after the inspirational speeches of the saints, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had blessed the *Sabha*.

(Pravinbhai Shah)

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

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, *Katha-Varta, Dhoon-Kirtan* and *Nitya-Niyam* as well as *Thaal* to Thakorji were performed in the *Satsang Sabha* which was organized on Saturday 21st August 2010 in the evening from 5.00 hours to 9.30 hours in Ilkris Hall. Shri Harivallabh Swami from Colonia temple had narrated *Katha* through Live telecast.

On Friday 10th September 2010, *Satsang Sabha* was organized in Ilkris Hall from 7.15 hours to 9.00 hours wherein *Vachanamrit Katha, Dhoon-Kirtan* and *Nitya Niyam* and *Thaal* to Thakorji were performed. Shastri Swami Dharmkishordasji of Los Angeles temple had narrated *Katha* through Cell Phone.

On Friday 1st October 2010, *Satsang Sabha* was organized in the evening from 7.00 hours to 10.00 hours. Shri J.P. Swami and Hariprasad Swai from Chicago had arrived and narrated *Katha* of *Shri Hari Leela Charitra* which was followed by group *aarti*.

On Saturday 16th October 2010, *Satsang Sabha* was organized in Ilkris Church wherein *Dhoon-Katha Varta-Kirtan* etc. were performed. Shastri Swami Dharmkishordasji from Hyustan temple had explained the importance of *Dharmkul* on the occasion of 38th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. This *Katha* continued for about one and half hour on cell phone. In the Sabha, *poojan-*

archan of photo image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was performed by all the devotees followed by cutting of Birth Day Cake and celebration of *Janmotsav* in a grand manner. Thereafter all the devotees had performed *Kirtan Bhakti Ras Garba* and also *Thaal aarti* to Thakorji. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj activity of *Satsang* is going on well. (Kanubhai Patel)

Celebration of 38th Prakatyotsav of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Shree Swaminarayan temple Leicester (U.K.)

38th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj was celebrated by all the saints and *Haribhaktas*.

All the devotees had performed *poojan-archan* and *group-aarti* of photo image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Devotee Shri Ranchhodbhai Gangdasbhai Chotaliya had organized six hours Akhand Mahamantra Dhoon on this occasion. Shastri Swami Satyasankalpdasjia and Shastri Suvratswaroopdas had explained the importance of *Dharmvanshi* in the *Sabha* organized on the occasion. Simultaneously Mantri Shri Kanjibhai Malvi had explained the importance of establishment of I.S.S.O. the host devotee family and all *Haribhaktas* had cut the Birthday Cake and had celebrated *Janmotsav*. Devotee Shri Kiranbhai Bhavsar had delivered the Vote of Thanks. On this occasion *Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal*, *Shreeji Sewa Mandal* and Shree *Bhakti Mahila Mandal* had rendered very inspirational services. A large number of devotees had availed the benefit of *Darshan* and *Prasad*. With the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, activity of *Satsang* is going on well. (Kiran Bhavsar)

AKSHARVAAS

London Wilsdonlane Devotee Dhanbai Manji Halai (Surajpark Kachchhwala) has passed away to Akshardham on 21/10/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari. May the Almighty Lord grant the strength and patience to the devotee family.

Narayanpura (Tal. Kadi)– Devotee Shri Keshavlal Parshottamdas has passed away to divine abode of God on 17/10/2010 amidst the chants of Mahamantra.

Ahmedabad (Gulabpura)- Devotee Shri Nathihen Kalidas Patel (mother of our ardent devotees Shri Amrutbhai and Vishnubhai) has passed away to Akshardham on Aadu Sud-10 Vijaya Dashmi (17/10/2010) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Maniyor (Tal. Idar) – Devotee Shri Shantaben Revabhai Patel [sister of devotee and accountant of our Shree Swaminarayan temple, devotee Shri Ishwarbhai Mohanbhai Patel (Sapawada)] passed away to divine abode of God on Bhadarva Vad-11 (04/10/2010) after short illness. May the Almighty Lord grant the strength and patience to the devotee family.

Andheri Mumbai – Devotee Shri Ramanlal Motilal Danak (age 97 years) passed away to divine abode of God on Wednesday Aasu Sud013 (20/10/2010) while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad-Jivrajpark - Devotee Shri Jayaben Kantilal Thakkar (mother of our active Haribhaktass devotee Shri Bharatbhai and Dhananjaybhai) passed away to Akshardham on 19/10/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Balol-Bhal: Devotee Shri Jijiben (wife of our devotee Shri Dipsangbhai Medhabhai) passed away to divine abode of God on 31/10/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad-Naranpura: Devotee Shri Taraben Mansukhlal Gandi (mother of our devotees Mukeshbhai and Girishbhai) passed away to Akshardham on 03/10/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad: Devotee Shri Jerambhai Jivrajbhai (father of our leading Haribhakta of Approach-Bapunagar temple and devotee Shri Dhirubhai Sarathiya) passed away to divine abode of God on 04/11/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Dhrangadhra: Devotee Shri Haribhai Ghelani passed away to divine abode of God on 22/10/2010 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

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













H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performing *aarti* of Thakorji in Australia on the occasion of *Shibir* of *Yuvak ndal*. (2) Local people celebrating *Navratri Utsav* in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Karachi. (*3*) *ibhaktas* performing group *Aarti* in Narayanghat temple on the occasion of *Sharad Poonam*. (4) H.H. i Mota Maharaj performing *aarti* in Kalupur temple on the occasion of *Sharadotsav*. (5) Family of the at devotee Jatanba of Dangarwa offering Things of *Prasadi* along with Shastri Swami to Nirgundasji .H. Shri Mota Maharaj for Shree Swaminarayan Museum. (6) Director General of Police (D.G.P.) of arat Shri Khandvawala availing the benefit of *Darshan* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj after his courtesy of Shree Swaminarayan Museum

Registered under RNI - No - GUJENG/2007/20198 " Permitted to post at Ahd PSO on 11 the every month under postal Regd. No. GUJ. 582/9-11 issued SSP Ahd Valid up to 31-12-2011



All the Three Other Forms of Shree Hari granting divine *Darshan* to the devotees in *Satsang Sabha* on the occasion of celebration of 38th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj in Idar.



H.H. Shri Lalji Maharajshri performing Khat Muhurt of the Main Entrance Gate of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

Museum Year
March 2010 - March 2011

shree swaminarayan museum

YEAR 2010 - 11 "MUSEUM YEAR"

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj the year from March-2010 to March-2011 is declared as "*Museum Year*".

Inauguration on 8th March 2011

Samvat 2067 Fagan Sud 3, Patotsav of Shree Narnarayandev

www.swaminarayanmuseum.com/org

JAGDISH OFFSET