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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| 01. EDITORIAL | 02 |
| 02. APPOINTMENT DIARY OF H.H. ACHARYA MAHARAJSHRI | 03 |
| 03. SHIKSHAPATRI | 04 |
| 04. MAGH SNAN | 06 |
| 05. BHAGWAN SHREE SWAMINARAYAN | 07 |
| 06. <i>AMRUTVANI</i> OF H.H. SHRI MOTA MAHARAJ (SYDNEY-NEW ZEALAND) | 08 |
| 07. HUMAN INCARNATIONS OF BHAGWAN | 09 |
| 08. VALUABLE LETTER OF SHREE SAHJANAND SWAMI | 11 |
| 09. BAL SATSANG SHIBIR | 12 |
| 10. SHREE SWAMINARAYAN MUSEUM | 14 |
| 11. SATSANG BALVATIKA | 16 |
| 12. BHAKTI-SUDHA | 18 |
| 13. NEWS | 20 |

**Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharaj
1008 ShriKoshalendraprasadji Maharajshri
(November- 2012)**

9. Graced Umiya Occasion, Sola, on the occasion of Mahamantra Dhoon organized by the devotee Shri Odhavjibhai Patel.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ishwarpura (Badpura) on the occasion of Katha.
12. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jiragadh (Halar-Muli Desh) on the occasion of Patotsav of Shree Rokadiyadada.
Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria on the occasion of Maruti-yagna.
13. Performed Group Sharda Poojan in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad.
14. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad, and performed Mangala Aarti, Shangaar Aarti and Annakut Aarti of Shree Narnarayandev on the pious day of New year of Samvat 2069.
15. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Vasantbhai Tribhovandas Tank, Paldi.
16. Graced the village Deusana, on the occasion of Katha organized for Jivatcharya.
- 17 to 18 Graced Kera (Kachchh).
- 19 to 21 Graced Mankuva (Kachchh) on the occasion of invocation of the idol images in Shree Swaminarayan temple.
23. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Kanubhai Shantilal, Vasna.
Graced the village Kundal (Kadi) on the occasion of Katha.
24. Granted Saint Mahadiksha in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad.
In the evening graced the village Kodki (Kachchh).
25. Graced the village Kodki (Kachchh).
- 26 to 11 December-2012 Pilgrimage to America for Dharmvicharan.



**APPOINTMENT DIARY OF OUR FUTUR ACHARYA SHRI
VRAJENDRAPRASADJI MAHARAJ
(November- 2012)**

12. Performed Poojan-archan of Shree Hanumanji in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad. Also performed aarti on this occasion.
14. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad, to perform Annakut aarti of Shree Narnarayandev on the pious day of New Year.
Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat and Naranpura, to perform Annakut aarti.
- 20-21 Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli, for concluding ceremony of Bal Satsang Shibir.
25. Graced Kundal (Kadi) on the occasion of Katha.



Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri
Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text-79

They shall observe self-discipline on Ekadashi, Janmashtmi and other birth anniversaries such as Shivratri etc. and celebrate them with great reverence.

Just as *Chaturmaas Vrata* is considered great, *Ekadashi Vrata* is also famed:

Ekadaashinaam Sarvasam Kartavyam Vratamaadarat |

All *Ekadashis* – of both halves of the month – *Shukla Paksha* and *Krushna Paksha* (bright and dark halves of the month) are equally great and so should be observed with due respect. Shatanand explains: *Ekadaashinaam Vratam Upavaasapoojajagaranadilakshano Niyamaha – Ekadaashinaam Vratam Upavaasapoojajagaranadilakshano Niyamaha - Ekadashi Vrata* observing *Niyams* (practices) of *Upavaas* (fasting), *Pooja* (worship) and *Jagarana* (renouncing sleep) should be practised.

Such *Vrata* should never be stopped through fear of effect to the physical body. That is, sometimes we fear that a full day fast may somehow cause the body to deteriorate, when it is completely untrue. Sure, if a person is truly ill, it would be advised not to perform extensive *Vratas*, but many use excuses like these when really, they don't wish to perform such *Vrata* through their difficulty.

In *Nirnyasindhu*, Narad explains, 'Those who are daily devoted to Vishnu should fortnightly observe the *Ekadashi Upavaas* (Fast).' *Katyayan* in *Kalamadhava* says, 'All between the ages of eight and eighty should observe *Ekadashi Upavaas* of both halves.' Hemadri and Lagunaradiya explain, 'Those who eat Ana (food containing pulses, lentils, beans etc.) on *Ekadashi* are sinners and will undoubtedly suffer the consequences of Hell.'

It is imperative that both *Ekadashis* are observed. Only such people can truly be called *Vaishnavas*. Deval Rishi explains ways which the *Vrata* can be broken, 'By drinking water too often chewing a *paan* even once, sleeping during the day and by indulging in sexual intercourse, one destroys the *Vrata*. *Vrata* observed without faith, with anger or without *Brahmacharya* (absolute celibacy) derive no fruits of action.'

"*Brahmacharya* is defined, as absolute celibacy involving not looking at women, touching women or talking to them. Even the company of one's wife dissolves *Brahmacharya Vrata*. The *Vrata* is also destroyed when a tear is shed, if one becomes angered or if one quarrels with somebody.'

similarly – devotion, *Vrata*, knowledge, meditation, sacrifice and chanting.. All bear no fruits if anger exists. *Katyayan* and *Vashista* fully explain '*Upavaas*'

Upavrutasya Papebhyo Yastu Vaso Gunoha

Suha |

Upavasaha Sa Vigneyaha Sarvabhogvivarjitaha

Upavaskrutabhete Gunashranye Dayadayaha ||
'To turn back from sin (Papa), to renounce objects of enjoyment (Bhoga) and to dwell in virtuosity (*guna*) is *Upavaas*.'

Guna or virtuous-meritous acts are *Japa*, *Dhyana*, *Katha Shravana*, *Daya* etc. in this *Shloka*, *Upavaas* is meant to include *Nirahaar* or fasting. On such day, performance of '*Datana*' or brushing of the teeth with a wooden object is also forbidden (as explained earlier). The tongue should be cleansed using a leaf on such day and the mouth should be cleansed twelve times with water, as explained by *Narad*.

Vratakarma forbids even looking at cooked food on such day, 'Looking at food, smelling food, dwelling upon food, and preparation of food for others is forbidden for those who perform *Upavaas*.'

those who are less spiritually developed and are unable to keep a full proper *Upavaas* may partake in *Faradi Ahaar* -eating of fruit and other such thing (nut etc.) explains *Nirnyasindhu's* *Naradiya Purana*, 'Those who are not fully developed may partake in vegetables, fruits, milk and water even though on such days, eating is forbidden.'

Three *Ekadashis* in the year are so special that on these days, one should strictly refrain from consumption of all foods. *Naradiya Purana* explains, '*Shayani* (*Ashadh Sud-11*), *Prabhodhini* (*Kartik Sud-11*) and *Parivartini* (*Shravana Sud-11*); those that eat on these *Ekadashis* cause me (God) the great pain equivalent to piercing an arrow through my heart.' those that are ill and therefore eat fruit on such days do not commit sin. Those that are very young or very old are similarly faultless.

Langurnadiya Purana explains further about *Ekadashi Vrata*, 'From the tenth day of the half (*Dashmi*) and for a subsequent three days one should refrain from chewing betel leaf, association with one's wife, and sleeping during the day. *Vrata* without *Jagarana* (staying awake during the day/night) and without *Vishnu Puja* deserve only half the fruits of action.'

Shatanand Muni in his *Bhashya* does not explain why we should observe the *Vrata*- the

history behind it, which I feel is important and so have added:

Once, long ago, Vishnu engaged in a long battle with the Asura Murdanava, son of Nadijang. Murdanava, fearless, strong and mighty had become invincible. During the battle, Lord Vishnu became tiresome and ran for shelter in Badrikashram. He entered a hidden cave-*Sinhavti*, and rested there. Falling fast asleep, a woman, with immense beauty emerged from the body of the Lord. At this time, the Asura Murdnava came to the cave, intending to kill Vishnu. The woman emerged from the caves with a hidden sword in hand. Seeing the beauty of the woman, he became overwhelmed and strived to make her his mate. The woman, listening to *Murdanayava's* plight decided to grant his wish on the condition that they have a battle, if *Murdanava* wins then she would surrender herself to him. So deciding, just as *Murdanava* was getting ready, the woman raised her concealed sword and severed *Murdanava's* head, killing him. She was able to do with her charm which all had failed to do.

Vishnu awoke at that point and emerged from the cave. Seeking *Murdanava* dead and a woman beside the body, he enquired as to who she was. She explained, "I was born from your eleven *Indriyas* (parts of the body), and hence my name is *Ekadahi*, my Lord." Realizing what service *Ekadashi* had done, Vishnu became overjoyed and granted *Ekadashi* a boon. She replies, "With this sword in my hand, I am now ready to destroy the innumerable sins of all of mankind" Vishnu replies, "From today, all my devotees shall observe the *Vrata of Ekadashi*. Therefore I grant you the boon to destroy the sins of such devotees." For this reason all should readily observe the *Ekadashi Vrata*, not only to wash away sin but also to fulfil the boon given to *Ekadashi* by Vishnu.

It amazes me, what sorts of *Vrata* people keep these days. Obviously we should strive to observe a full day fast. Those who cannot should modify their *Vrata* accordingly. For example they should eat fruit once a day or abstain from cooked food for the day or eat once *Falahar* such as *Samo*, *Shaka* etc. but eat as less as possible on such day. This it seems is totally ignored. Many on *Ekadashi* prepare huge feasts making a great variety of foods -*Samos*, *Shakas*, Chips, *Fahrari Bhajya*, *Fahrari Chevdo* etc.

Ekadashi is a day of control of all senses – not just fasting. It is a special day in the fortnight to desist from earning with pleasure.

An *Upavaas* is the best way to observe the *Vrata*, and is also good for the body as it will burn out all impure residual substances in the body accrued over the two weeks and so there is also a physical advantage.

Finally:

Krushnajanmadinanagacha Shivratescha

Sotsavam ||

one should observe the birthdays of Krishna, Rama etc. that are famed in *Puranas*, as well as the *Vrata* day of Shivratri. Such occasions should be celebrated with great festivity with the sonorous sounds of instruments bellowing.

One should perform Mahapuja, Pooja of Brahmins and Sadhus, songs and praise of Shree Krishna and Jagran (staying awake for the whole day and night). One should not engage themselves in work on such day (but observe devotional praise).

It is imperative that *Upavaas* is observed if possible on such days. These make believe *Vratas* such as eating after *Aarti* at seven o'clock in the evening are all fallacies, especially the belief that eating *non-Farari* (such as *Rotli* and *Shaka*) foods after seven o'clock is acceptable.

Katyayan in Parashar Madhava explains, 'Those who eat on *Ekadashi* days should perform the *Vrata* of *Chandrayana* (as *Prayaschit*).' *Chandraya Vrata* lasts for a whole month and involves intensive fasting. Bhavishya Purana says, 'Those who do not observe the *Vrata* days of the Lord's birthdays are banished to Hell, enduring great torture.' Skanda Purana says further about Shivratri *Vrata*: 'Those who do not observe the greatest of all *Vratas* – Shivratri, ensure a further thousand lite times.'

Narad Pancharatra explains the Birthday *Vrata* days as follows:

Vratani Vishnubhaktanaam Nitganimani Sanjaguha |

Ekadashyakhilaha Sudha Dvadashi Vamanashya Cha ||

Shriramdevsajanmanavmi Divyasidhida |
Krushnajanamashtmi Chaha Nrusinhasya Chaturdashi ||

Shivaratricheti Mukhya Vratanuktani Tatvataha |

'All faithful devotees of Vishnu should always observe the following *Vratas*: all *Ekadashis*, *Vaman Dvadashi*, *Ramanavmi*, *Krishna Janmashtmi*, *Nrusinha Chaturdashi* and *Shivratri*.'

all such *Vratas* are important and should be observed. *Narsinha Jayanti*, *Shivratri* and *Vaman Jayanti* should be observed with care as these are often not observe. On these Jayanti days a full day fast must be observed if possible. If not then *Falahar* should be observed. Never should 'Ana' or normal food be eaten on these days, as it will surely destroy the *Vrata*.

Shivratri Vrata, as we have heard, is considered the greatest of all *Vratas* and so bears immense fruits. It is kept in praise of Lord Shiva the greatest *Vaishnav*. Those who do not observe such *Vrata*, disobeying Lord Swaminarayan's command, cannot be called true *Vasihavas*. In essence we insult Lord Shiva, the devotee of God which in turn leads to hurting our own *Ishtadeva*.

MAGH SNAN

- Sadhu Purushottamprakashdas
(Jetalpurdham)

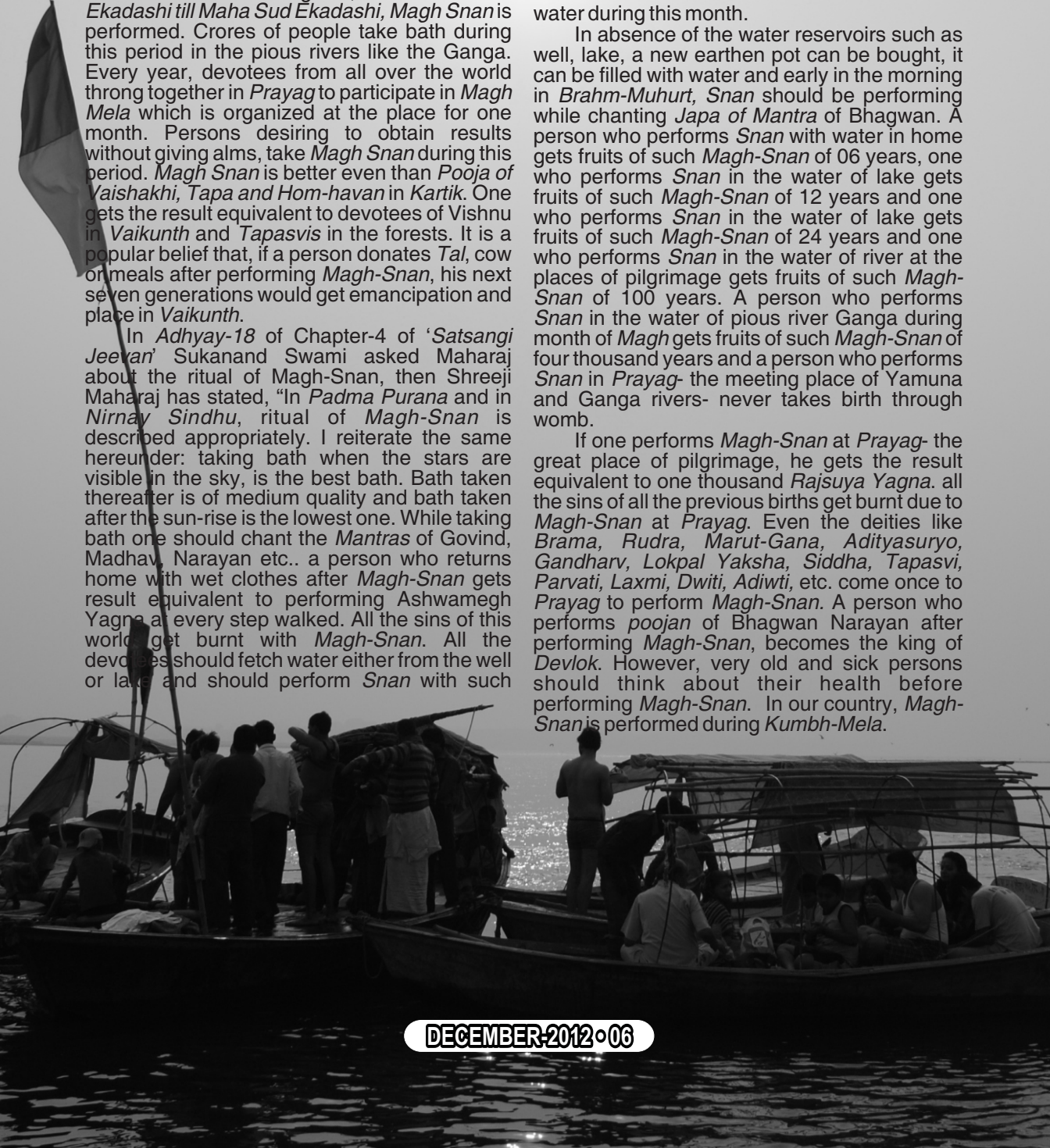
In 'Padma Purana' by Bhagwan Ved Vyas, the ritual of *Magh-Snan* and its importance have been explained in detail. When goddess Parvati asked Bhagwan Shivji about absolving of all the sins then Mahadevji explained her *Magh-snan* the best ritual of absolving of all the sins. In the northern regions, from *Posh Sud-Ekadashi till Maha Sud Ekadashi*, *Magh Snan* is performed. Crores of people take bath during this period in the pious rivers like the Ganga. Every year, devotees from all over the world throng together in *Prayag* to participate in *Magh Mela* which is organized at the place for one month. Persons desiring to obtain results without giving alms, take *Magh Snan* during this period. *Magh Snan* is better even than *Pooja of Yaishakhi, Tapa and Hom-havan* in *Kartik*. One gets the result equivalent to devotees of Vishnu in *Vaikunth* and *Tapasvis* in the forests. It is a popular belief that, if a person donates *Tal*, cow or meals after performing *Magh-Snan*, his next seven generations would get emancipation and place in *Vaikunth*.

In *Adhyay-18* of Chapter-4 of '*Satsangi Jeevan*' Sukanand Swami asked Maharaj about the ritual of *Magh-Snan*, then Shreeji Maharaj has stated, "In *Padma Purana* and in *Nirnay Sindhu*, ritual of *Magh-Snan* is described appropriately. I reiterate the same hereunder: taking bath when the stars are visible in the sky, is the best bath. Bath taken thereafter is of medium quality and bath taken after the sun-rise is the lowest one. While taking bath one should chant the *Mantras* of Govind, Madhav, Narayan etc.. a person who returns home with wet clothes after *Magh-Snan* gets result equivalent to performing *Ashwamegh Yagna* at every step walked. All the sins of this world get burnt with *Magh-Snan*. All the devotees should fetch water either from the well or lake and should perform *Snan* with such

water during this month.

In absence of the water reservoirs such as well, lake, a new earthen pot can be bought, it can be filled with water and early in the morning in *Brahm-Muhurt*, *Snan* should be performing while chanting *Japa of Mantra* of Bhagwan. A person who performs *Snan* with water in home gets fruits of such *Magh-Snan* of 06 years, one who performs *Snan* in the water of lake gets fruits of such *Magh-Snan* of 12 years and one who performs *Snan* in the water of lake gets fruits of such *Magh-Snan* of 24 years and one who performs *Snan* in the water of river at the places of pilgrimage gets fruits of such *Magh-Snan* of 100 years. A person who performs *Snan* in the water of pious river Ganga during month of *Magh* gets fruits of such *Magh-Snan* of four thousand years and a person who performs *Snan* in *Prayag*- the meeting place of Yamuna and Ganga rivers- never takes birth through womb.

If one performs *Magh-Snan* at *Prayag*- the great place of pilgrimage, he gets the result equivalent to one thousand *Rajsuya Yagna*. all the sins of all the previous births get burnt due to *Magh-Snan* at *Prayag*. Even the deities like *Brama, Rudra, Marut-Gana, Adityasuryo, Gandharv, Lokpal Yaksha, Siddha, Tapasvi, Parvati, Laxmi, Dwiti, Adiwiti*, etc. come once to *Prayag* to perform *Magh-Snan*. A person who performs *poojan* of Bhagwan Narayan after performing *Magh-Snan*, becomes the king of *Devlok*. However, very old and sick persons should think about their health before performing *Magh-Snan*. In our country, *Magh-Snan* is performed during *Kumbh-Mela*.



शुुरे शुुवमनरयन

BHAGWAN SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

- Sadhu Devswarupdas (Jaipur)



It is not important for how many years a devotee performs *Bhakti* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. His ardent devotion is important. It is real understanding which is important. If there is no understanding, worship would be blind. This real understanding is an ornament of *Satsang* and wrong understanding is the evil. Here is one incident.

Once Shreeji Maharaj was sitting in the Darbar of Dada Khachar. In the Darbar, Pragji Dave was narrating Katha. At that time, devotee Bhaoraoji of Dharampur came and performed Dandwat Pranam to Maharaj. At that time one barber showed his willingness to offer his services for cutting the hair. Maharaj sat on one Chakla, the barber cut the hair.

Meanwhile Mulji Brahmchari came and informed Maharaj that, the meals were ready. Maharaj asked him to prepare *Thaal*. Then Maharaj accepted *Thaal*

without taking bath. Bhaoraoji was watching all this. He thought suspiciously, "Can there be such God? Who takes meals without taking bath after cutting the hair? Then it was futile expense to come over here from a distant place to perform *Darshan* of Bhagwan." While Bhaoraoji was thinking, Maharaj looked at him with smiling face. The moment Bhaoraoji looked at Maharaj, he fell down and in his sleep, he saw Badrikashram, Shree Narnarayandev etc. all *Muktas* were performing *Stuti* of Maharaj.

After some time, Bhaoraoji saw in his sleep Shwet-Dwip and Bhagwan Vasudev. Bhagwan Vasudev and all other *Muktas* were performing *Stuti* of Maharaj. Then Bhaoraoji saw *Vaikunth* in his sleep and also saw *Muktas* of *Vaikunth* performing *Stuti* of Maharaj. Then, Bhaoraoji's doubt was cleared and he cherished ardent faith in Maharaj. So in order to have divine *Darshan* of Bhagwan, we need to cultivate real understanding. Without Bhagwan, we have got no existence in this world. And only with ardent *Bhakti*, one can get emancipation in life and divine *Darshan* of Bhagwan.

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and *Dharmkul*, on the occasion of entering the 25th year of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Balva, subscription of 35 life time membership has been made for our '*Shree Swaminarayan*' magazine wherein devotee Shri Dashrathbhai Amrutbhai Chaudhary and Ramanbhai Kababhai Chaudhary have rendered their beautiful services.

DECEMBER-2012-07

AMRUTVANI OF H.H. SHRI MOTA MAHARAJ (SYDNEY-NEW ZEALAND)

- Compilation : Gordhanbhai Sitapara (Hirawadi-Bapunagar)

- Co-operation : Hajuri Parshad Kanu Bhagar
Guru Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat

In *Vachanamrit*, Shreeji Maharaj has given many examples because it is easy to understand the dry principles with lucid examples. Here is one such example. One space shuttle was heading towards the Moon. There were two astronauts inside the shuttle. Suddenly the machines stopped working. Now the astronauts did not know whether they were heading towards the Moon or were returning to the Earth. One of the astronauts was prudent. He advised his companion to go the window and watch whether the Moon is appearing bigger or the Earth. This would decide in which direction they are going. Now we as the devotees have to think whether our attachment towards the world is increasing or towards the God. If our attachment is increasing towards God then our graph is going up and if the direction is opposite one then our graph is going down. This is a very simple thing.

Maharaj has toiled hard for establishing and developing this *Sampradaya*. There are numerous examples of it. Nand Saints have stated that, at that time, saints were journeying in the bullock-carts. Now the number of carts was less than the saints. So there were directions of Maharaj that only aged saints should sit in the carts and the young saints should walk along the cart. It is in this way, that the whole *Sampradaya* has been established. Maharaj has made efforts for each and every devotee.

Maharaj directed Ladhikai of Bhuj to wear the clothes of a married woman though she was a widow. But since these were the directions of Maharaj, Ladhikai wore the clothes of a married woman. This was done by her, because she had understood importance of Maharaj. Once importance of Maharaj is understood, everything is

possible.

Once Sundarji Suthar came to Maharaj. Sundarji belonged to Bhuj, Kachchh. Sundarji came and asked Maharaj that, Maharaj should stay permanently at his house and should not go out until he says so. Maharaj agreed. Now during *Van-vicharan*, Maharaj had met kings of many States, and many of them had offered to get their princess married with Maharaj and also to offer the whole kingdom to rule. But Maharaj had refused such offers. And now here, Maharaj surrendered to such a demand of his ardent devotee. Now Jagjivan, who was the Minister of king of Bhuj, used to hate Maharaj. He came to know that, Bhagwan Swaminarayan has come at the place of Sundarji. He immediately rushed to the house of Sundarji. When Sundarji learnt this, he ardently requested Maharaj to hide in the upper floor of his house. Maharaj followed the instructions and hid Himself on the upper floor of the house.

Jagjivan Diwan (Minister) rushed inside the house of Sundarji and shouted at him asking whether Bhagwan Swaminarayan had come there. Sundarji replied that, Bhagwan had come but now has gone to some other village. Listening to this, Maharaj interrupted from above and informed that, He was there only. Jagjivan returned to the place threatening that, he would bring the army to

Con. from page 13.....

शुडुडी डुडडडुडडुडुडु



HUMAN INCARNATIONS OF BHAGWAN

- Chandrakant Mohanlal Pathak (Gandhinagar)

Once Bhagwan Shree Hari graced the village Karmad. While Maharaj was taking rest one Darbar Shri Narsinhji of village Chaska came there to perform divine *Darshan* of Maharaj. Maharaj asked Brahmachari to bring water and asked him, 'How much time will it take to prepare the meals?' Brahmachari replied, "Around one hour."

So Maharaj asked Darbar to talk with Mulji Sheth and to clear his doubts, if any. Then Narsinh Darbar asked a question to Mulji Sheth, "I have a doubt in my mind. Please help me. Recently, Maharaj had planned to perform *Yagna* in Jetalpur. All the preparations were made for the *Yagna* but it could not be organized as the Government did not grant permission. Then whether Bhagwan, being omniscient, was now knowing that Government is not going to grant permission? And if so then why this much futile labour?"

Maharaj heard this and told Mulji Sheth that He Himself would answer the question of Narsinh Darbar. Maharaj asked Narsinh Darbar, "Do you call Lord Rama as Bhagwan?" Darbar replied, "Yes, the whole world worships Lord Rama as Bhagwan." now Maharaj told, "It was the day of *Rajyabhishek* of Bhagwan Shree Rama as the king of Ayodhya. All the preparations were made. Performance of *Yagna*,

distribution of sweets, bringing water from all the pious rivers of the world etc. were ready. But neither the *Yagna* was performed, nor the sweets were distributed to the people of Ayodhya and the water brought from the pious rivers remained lying unused. *Rajyabhishek* of Bhagwan Shree Rama did not take place. He had to suffer *Vanvaas*, as per the wish of his mother Kaikeyi. Now the question is, when Lord Rama was Bhagwan, why he allowed all these preparations, when he knew that, he was not going to be king?"

Then Maharaj asked Narsinh Darbar, "Do you call Lord Shree Krishna as Bhagwan?" Darbar replied, "Yes, why not? The whole world worships Shree Krishna as Bhagwan. Even people celebrate *Janmastmi* – as Birthday of Bhagwan Shree Krishna." Now Maharaj told, "Shree Krishna was great. He had knowledge about the all branches of knowledge and science. He knew social science and human psychology better than any other person of his time. Yet, he suffered all the pains, which a common and ordinary person has to suffer. He helped his real younger sister Subhadra to be abducted, though he knew that his elder brother Balram would be very angry at this. The Pandavas lost everything in gambling in the Darbar of Hastinapur, even their wife

Draupadi, who had to suffer great humiliation, the history has ever known. Yet Bhagwan Shree Krishna did not Pandavas directly. Bhagwan Shri Krishna is Rajadhiraj (king of kings), *Tyagi* (a Sadhu), *Bhogi* (man of this world), *Kayar* (coward), *Survir* (brave), he is *Dayalu* (merciful). In fact He is *Leela-Purushottam*. He has played all the roles as and when the situation has demanded. And therefore, he is worshiped as the Supreme God by all *Vaishnav* devotees.

Similarly, Bhagwan Shree Rama has suffered all the human pains, which an ordinary common man suffers. He has exhibited all the human feelings, good or bad, in his life, which any man expresses and exhibits in his life. Bhagwan Shree Rama succumbed to the demand of a woman and ran after the golden-deer and

the king Ravana abducted Sita. Then Bhagwan Shree Rama roamed around in the forests and mountains in search of Sita. He also exhibited the feelings of exhaustion, desolation and hopelessness, which a common feels during such time.

Thus, Bhagwan behaves completely as a common human being during His human incarnation and suffers all the pains and struggles which an ordinary man does in his life."

Listening to this from Maharaj, devotee Narsinhji Darbar realized that, Shreeji Maharaj was nobody else but Bhagwan and bowed down at the lotus like feet of Maharaj and begged pardon. Now he was clear in his mind as all his doubts were cleared. And from that day onwards, he became an ardent devotee of Shreeji Maharaj.

Request to Haribhaktas of Hari-temple under Muli Shree Radhakrishnadev About Depositing Dharmado

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, all devotees and *Haribhaktas* and *Kotharis* of Hari-temples under Muli Shree Radhakrishnadev Desh are hereby informed that, during the earthquake of 2001, many temples of our Muli Desh were damaged, some of which were totally destroyed. At that time, under the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, assistance was provided from Muli temple and consent was also given to use the amount received in Dharmado for renovation reconstruction of such damaged temple so that temples could be reconstructed at the earliest and in many such temples, invocation of the idol images of the deities was performed by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and original documents of the temple were deposited with Muli temple. However, in many cases, even after a decade, the amount of *Dharmado* is still being retained by the concerned *Hari-temple*. So it informed to all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* under directions that, the amount, grains or things offered as *Dharmado* would be considered as such only after the said amount, grains or things etc. are deposited with Muli temple and registered in *Kothar* (the Books) of Shree Radhakrishnadev and receipt thereof is obtained from Muli temple.

In *Shloka-147* of the pious '*Shiksha Patri*', Shree Hari has directed, "***They shall donate one tenth of their earnings, money or food grains, to Lord Shree Krishna. Those with insufficient income shall offer one twentieth.***" therefore, it is an ardent request to all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* that, any *Haribhakta* who has not been depositing *Dharmado*, may now start doing it and *Dharmado* of those *Hari-temple*, which is not being deposited with Muli temple since the time of the earthquake, may now deposit the same with *Kothar* of Shree Radhakrishnadev and may obtain the receipt thereof. It is the duty of each and every devotee and *Haribhakta* to deposit *Dharmado* with the main temple of *Desh*. With an ardent prayer that, May Shree Radhakrishnadev of Mulidham and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj be happy with all devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

(Mahant Swami, Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli)

॥ श्रीसहजानंदायनमोनमः ॥ ॥ अथ श्रीहरिचरित्रचिंतामणिलिखते ॥ दोहा ॥ ॥ मोहनमेरे
तरे ॥ प्रेकेकिनप्रकास ॥ प्रगटप्रभुकेगनदिकागावनबदोऊलासा ॥ १ ॥ श्रीसहजानंदशा मके
॥ चरनकमलचितलाश ॥ हरिचरिः श्ररुए डुवातमिनापयानि वेडंसवसखदाई ॥ २ ॥ अक्षरकेअप्रा

VALUABLE LETTER OF SHREE SAHJANAND SWAMI

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt (Bhuj)

The people of this world are found to be unhappy. There is not a single person in this world who is not unhappy. This is because they are not so much tolerant. Therefore, they are always in search of ways and means to get rid of miseries of life. And it is due to such search that, they take recourse to Black Magic, sorcery etc.

In America, Europe and Pakistan, the proportion of Black Magic is much higher. During the 18th Century, the Black Magic was very much in vogue in Gujarat. There were people who had made the Black Magic their profession, and through temptation or threat they should to loot the innocent but ignorant people and thereby they used to fetch money. It is in the backdrop of such social evils that, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan had created 221-Shlokas couched in the pious 'Shiksha Patri' as it is popularly known and revered as the scripture of our Sampradaya. In Shloka-85 of this pious 'Shiksha Patri' Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has stated:

"In the even of afflictions caused by any evil spirits, they shall chant the Stotram of 'Narayan Kavacham' or 'Hanumaan Stotram', but shall never chant the Mantras of any other deity."

Shri Shatanand Swami has created 'Janmangal Stotra'. A person who performs 10 Path of this Stotra, he or she gets Dharma, Arth, Kam and Moksha in his life. Shri Gopalanand Swami has given Mahamantra 'Om Namō Hanumante Bhaya Bhanjanay, Sukham Kuru Fat Swaha'. This Mahamantra can help a person get rid of many miseries and effect of ill spirits.

Shree Sahjanand Swami has addressed a letter wherein valuable advise has been given to the people of this world not to be misguided by the persons exercising and using the Black Magic. The summary of the letter reads as under :

"The reason behind writing this letter

is that, a person gets happiness and unhappiness in life as per his Prarabdh (luck). Even his birth and death are as per his Prarabdh. No other person of this world is capable of violating the rules of Prarabdh and therefore, no other person can grant more happiness or misery to anybody more or less than his destiny. Only Narayan is capable of doing it and nobody else. And therefore, one should cherish ardent faith in Bhagwan and should not be afraid of anybody else.

We are Bhaktas of Bhagwan. And therefore, no Haribhakta should keep any kind of fear in his mind. No person knowing about life-saving Aushadhis (medicines) is found alive today. Moreover, even the person knowing Black Magic, by which he claims to enliven the dead, is found living today. If the Black Magic has any real mortal effect upon human beings then why the Kings should remain alive who have, naturally, many enemies? And if this Black Magic has really any effect upon human beings, then why the kings should spend lacs of rupees behind the army and armour. He would have recruited only one person knowing Black Magic with handsome salary, and would have got his work done through such person. But no such person has ever been recruited by any king in the present or in the past. Therefore, while remaining fearless, devotees should perform Bhakti of Narayan.

The saints used to read over this letter to the devotees and Haribhaktas at the occasions like Utsav-Samaiya in the cities and in the villages and thereby the devotees used to gain spiritual strength and firm faith in Maharaj. By writing this letter, Shree Sahjanand Swami has rendered great service to the whole Sampradaya.

॥ श्रीसहजानंदायनमोनमः ॥ ॥ अथ श्रीहरिचरित्रचिंतामणिलिखते ॥ दोहा ॥ ॥ मोहनमेरे
तरे ॥ प्रेकेकिनप्रकास ॥ प्रगटप्रभुकेगनदिकागावनबदोऊलासा ॥ १ ॥ श्रीसहजानंदशा मके
॥ चरनकमलचितलाश ॥ हरिचरिः श्ररुए डुवातमिनापयानि वेडंसवसखदाई ॥ २ ॥ अक्षरकेअप्रा
॥ श्रीसहजानंदायनमोनमः ॥ ॥ अथ श्रीहरिचरित्रचिंतामणिलिखते ॥ दोहा ॥ ॥ मोहनमेरे
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तरे ॥ प्रेकेकिनप्रकास ॥ प्रगटप्रभुकेगनदिकागावनबदोऊलासा ॥ १ ॥ श्रीसहजानंदशा मके
॥ चरनकमलचितलाश ॥ हरिचरिः श्ररुए डुवातमिनापयानि वेडंसवसखदाई ॥ २ ॥ अक्षरकेअप्रा

श्री स्वामिनारायण

FIRST BAL SATSANG SHIBIR OF MULI DESH AND FOURTH ONE OF AHMEDABAD DESH BAL SATSANG SHIBIR

- Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj and in the pious company of our Future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj, *Bal Satsang Shibir* was organized in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli from 19/11/2012 to 21/11/2012. The *Shibir* was organized by Mahant Swami Sadguru Shyamsundardasji on behalf of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Muli.

In the campus of temple of Shree Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj, grand *Bal Satsang Shibir* was organized wherein about 1100 children from 120 villages had participated. Its propaganda was made not only in *Satsang Samaj* but also through E-TV, TV-9 Channels and Newspapers like '*Divya Bhaskar*'. In very less time, children of many villages of Ahmedabad and Muli Desh of the age group of 13 to 18 years participated in the *Shibir*.

In this *Tridinatmak* (three day) *Shibir*, registration of the participant children was made on 19/11/2012 in the evening at 9.00 hours. Thereafter, each and every participant performed *aarti Darshan* of Thakorji and took *Prasad*. At night grand cultural programme was organized during the *Shibir* wherein Shree Narnarayandev *Bal Satsang Mandal*, Surendranagar had performed *Kirtan* with dance. In this way, the first day was over. On the second day in the morning all the participants performed *pooja-ritual* and performed *Darshan of aarti* of Radhakrishnadev and had their morning breakfast. Thereafter, 1st Session of the

Shibir was started wherein Shastri Swami Satyaprakashdasji explained 'Importance of Nine temples got constructed by Shreeji Maharaj'. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj graced the occasion along with the saints. Then H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, Mahant Swami Shyamsundardasji, Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Swami Krishnavallabhdasji performed *Deep-pragatya* of *Shibir*. The participant children played games in group in their In-door game session. After taking *Prasad* the devotee Narayanbhai (Balvawala) and Sadguru Shastri Swami Satyasankalpdasji explained 'How should be the child of *Bal Mandal*?' in the pious company of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj, chocolate *utsav* was celebrated. Thereafter, each participant performed *aarti* of Thakorji and accepted *Prasad*. In the night programme, *Raas-Garba* were organized wherein Shri Mayankbhai Modi was an artist.

On the third day, *Nitya Ritual*, *pooja* ritual and *aarti* were performed. After the breakfast, the third session of *Shibir* was begun wherein Sadguru Shastri Swami Suryaprakashdasji explained 'Freedom from Addiction'. Thereafter all the participants visited the places of *Prasadi* 'Muli Darshan' alongwith saints and *Haribhaktas*. Then all the participants took *Prasad* which was followed by the photo-session with H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. Thereafter in the concluding session in the *Sabha*, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj encouraged the participant students by offering the prizes to the participants who secured 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in indoor games, *Garba* etc. among the saints Mahant Swami Shyamsundardasji, Sadguru Swami

DECEMBER-2012 • 12

Brahmviharidasji and Shastri Swami Narayanmunidasi and Kothari Swami Vrajbhushandasji, as the representatives of Mahant Swami of Ahmedabad temple delivered the inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj blessed all the participants. All the participants were offered one tea-shirt and cap as sweet memory of *Bal Satsang Shibir*. H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj also offered the letter of blessings to all the participants.

Services of the devotees was very much inspirational on this occasion. During the *Shibir*, various groups of were formed such as Shree Radhakrishnadev Group, Shree Hari Krishna Group, Shree Ghanshyam Group, Shree Narnarayandev Group.

Services of Shree Ghanshyam Group and Shree Narnarayandev Group was very much inspirational in the kitchen under the guidance of Sadguru Shastri Swami Brahmviharidasji (Mahant of Charadva). Among other saints J.K. Swami, Vraj Swami (Kothari, Naranghat) and Gopaljivan Swami had rendered their valuable services. Devotees Shri Pravin Bhagat, Chandu Bhagat, Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Bapunagar, Jayeshbhai (Ahmedabad), Bhailalbhai Saheb, Pranjivansaheb had rendered their inspirational services. The whole *Satsang Sabha* was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Satyaprakashdasji.

Con. on page 8

catch both Bhagwan and his devotees. Now Sundarji was confused. He immediately, asked Maharaj to go away to the house of Gangaram Malla. Maharaj smiled and went away. Maharaj kept his promise and went out of house of Sundarji only when Sundarji asked him.

The lesson we have to learn from this example is that, Sundarji underestimated Maharaj and therefore, he asked Him to go away from his house. If he would have cherished the real understanding that, Maharaj is the Supreme Power of the whole Universe, then he would have never asked Maharaj to go outside his house. But he underestimated Maharaj and committed a blunder.

There was a *Bava* residing in one village. He was harassed by all the villagers. And the style of harassment was very strange. The moment anybody would tell him, 'Ram Ram', this *Bava* would abuse such person with foul words. One day, one person asked him the reason as to why he was abusing the persons who were telling him, 'Ram Ram'? This *Bava* replied, "By abusing the villagers, I have made all the villagers utter the words 'Ram Ram'."

Thus, for *Satsang* many devotees have to tolerate; they have to understand importance of Maharaj. With the decrease in understanding of this world, there would be corresponding increase in understanding of

importance of Maharaj and also in *Satsang*.

There was a goldsmith. He had the business of jewelery. He had a son. At a very young age, the goldsmith passed away leaving behind huge debt and a son of very tender age. The goldsmith had also left two diamonds. The young son thought of clearing the debt of his late father by selling off the two diamonds. He immediately carried the two diamonds to his maternal uncle, who was also a businessman in jewelery. The uncle saw the diamonds, and asked his nephew to work in his shop for some days. The young boy worked for some days with his maternal uncle in his shop of jewelery and diamonds. After some days, he checked the two diamonds, as now he had learnt the art and skill of recognizing the real and fake diamonds. After due verification, he found that, the diamonds were fake and not real ones. He threw away the fake diamonds and came to his maternal uncle and told everything. The uncle smiled at him and told him that, he already knew that, the diamonds were fake but he would not believe it and would be misled to think that his uncle had usurped the diamonds.

Thus, when we ourselves find out that, there is nothing in this world and that real happiness is at the lotus like feet of Shreeji Maharaj then our attachment with this world starts decreasing and our attachment with Bhagwan keeps on increasing. Our *Bhakti* becomes ardent *Bhakti*.

Shree Swaminarayan Museum

ACHARYA PANDE KESHAVPRASADJI
AYODHYAPRASADJI MAHARAJ

શ્રી નરનારાયણદેવના ચરણકમલ સમીપ શુભ સ્થાન શ્રી અમદાવાદથી લિખાવિંત આચાર્યશ્રી કૈશવપ્રસાદજી મહારાજ શ્રી અયોધ્યાપ્રસાદજી મહારાજ ॥ શ્રીશ્રી

॥ સ્વસ્તિ શ્રી જાલાવાડ દેશ મહાશુભ સ્થાને ઉત્તમોત્તમ પરમપવિત્ર શ્રી પ્રત્યક્ષ પુરુષોત્તમના ચરણકમલોપાસક શ્રીજી મહારાજ કૃત મર્યાદાપાલક એવં સર્વ શુભ ઊપમાયોગ્ય હરિભક્ત બાઈભાઈ સમસ્ત અમારા જયશ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણપૂર્વક શુભાશીર્વાદ વાંચવા. અત્ર શ્રીજી મહારાજના પ્રતાપથી કુશલ છે ને તમારી કુશલતાનો પત્ર લખવો. બીજું વિશેષ લખવા કારણ એ છે જે તમારા સર્વેની શુભ વાસનાની વૃદ્ધિને અર્થે ને અશુભ વાસનાની નિવૃત્તિને અર્થે સર્વે હરિભક્તને શ્રીજી મહારાજની આજ્ઞા પ્રમાણે વરસોવરસ પોતપોતાના નામનો ધર્માદો આપવો. તે નામના ધર્માદાને ઊઘરાવવા સારુ સાધુ ત્યાગવલ્લભદાસજીનું મંડલ મોકલ્યું છે. તેમને શ્રીજી મહારાજની આજ્ઞા પ્રમાણે ઊઘરાવી આપજો તે અમોને પહોંચશે. ને જેણે નામ લખાવ્યું ન હોય તેમણે પોતાનું નવું નામ લખાવવું. એમાં શ્રીજી મહારાજની અતિ પ્રસન્નતા છે. ને પોતાના ગામમાં મંદિર વગેરે હરેક ધર્મસંબંધિ કાર્ય આવે તેમાં નામનો ધર્માદો વાવરવો નહિ એવી શ્રીજી મહારાજની આજ્ઞા છે તેમાં ફેર પાડવો નહિ. ને નિત્ય પ્રત્યે મંદિરમાં આવવું ને કથાવાર્તા ભજન સ્મરણનો અભ્યાસ રાખવો ને આ પત્રની અવધિ સંવત ૧૯૩૩ ના કારતક સુદી-૧૫ થી લેઈને સંવત ૧૯૩૪ ના કાર્તિક સુદી-૧૫ પર્યંત છે. તાર પછે આ પત્ર માનવો નહિ. લિખિતં પુરાણી ખુશાલ પ્રભુરામના જયશ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ વાંચજો. સંવત ૧૯૩૩ના કાર્તિક સુદી-૧૫.

Letter No.10

As per the directions of Shreeji Maharaj and as per the tradition of *Sampradaya*, this letter for collecting *Nam-Dharmado* was dictated by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Keshavprasadji Maharaj. While explaining why every year *Haribhakta* should perform *Nam-Dharmado*, Maharaj has stated that, it is for nourishing the noble qualities and curbing the baser ones. Moreover, *Nam-Dharmado* would reach to Dharmvanshi Maharaj and *Haribhaktas* would be considered of Maharaj and so Shreeji Maharaj would protect such *Haribhaktas* from all miseries. Pleasure of Shreeji Maharaj is also obtained and it is visible from the eyes and behaviour of Dharmvanshi Maharaj. Here it is not question of giving something and receiving something in lieu thereof but it is about scrupulously following the directions of Shreeji Maharaj and the result thereof is also as a result of the directions of Shreeji Maharaj. Therefore, all the devotees should insist upon adhering to the directions of Shreeji Maharaj.

This letter is kept in Hall No.11 of Shree Swaminarayan Museum for divine *Darshan* of devotees.
(- Prof. Hitendrabhai Naranbhai Patel)

DECEMBER-2012-14



शुुरे सुुवामिनरररन

List of devotees who rendered their services under Shree Swaminarayan Museum Maintenance *Bhet Yojna* November-2012

| | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Rs.50,000/- | Hirani Dhanji Kuvarji 9with wife Radhabai and family) Fotdi (Kachchh) | Rs. 6,500/- | thorough Govindbhai and Rajubhai Ghanshyam Engineering Industries, Bopal |
| Rs.25,000/- | Karshanbhai Manji Hirani family, Rampar (Vekra-Kachchh) at prseent Gandhidham | Rs. 5,100/- | Patadia Jewellers, Jayeshbhai Soni, Ahmedabad |
| Rs.21,000/- | Patel Chandubhai Jividas - Itadara (Mansa) | Rs. 5,000/- | Chandrikaben Anilkumar Jugaldas-U.S.A. |
| Rs.20,000/- | One Haribhakta, Ahmedabad | Rs. 5,000/- | Ghanshyam Engineering-Bopal throughMinaben K. Joshi |
| Rs.11,111/- | Akshar Nivasi Kanjibhai Karshandas Patel (Itadara (Mansa) through Bmalaba Kanjibhai Patel | Rs. 5,000/- | Umeshbhai Ravjibhai Rathod-Isanpur through Sanjiv and Vijay |
| Rs.11,000/- | Patel Ankur Dhirajbhai-Ahmedabad on the occasion of birthday of Jiya | Rs. 5,000/- | One Satsangi lady devotee - Naranpura through Mukundbhai J. Shah |
| Rs.11,000/- | Vishal Chamanlal Thakkar-Mumbai | Rs. 5,000/- | Sushilaben and Jasvantbhai Modi-Ahmedabad on the occasion of obtaining 10 years' Visa |
| Rs.11,000/- | Patel Vishal Pranjivanbhai-Nirnaynagar, on the occasion of obtaining Visa of Australia | Rs. 5,000/- | Dr. Harikrishnabhai Gokalbhai Patel-Sapawada |
| Rs.10,000/- | Mansukhbhai Jaanbhai Manani (Jiragadhwala), Singapore | Rs. 5,000/- | Maheshbhai Patel, Lalodawala-Vapi |
| Rs.10,000/- | Patel Punambhai Maganbhai, Ahmedabad | Rs. 5,000/- | Tribhovandas Hirdas Patel-Aajol Narendrabhai Babarbai Patel family-Ahmedabad |
| Rs. 7,001/- | Ramilaben Arvindbhai Patel-Viratnagar | Rs. 5,000/- | Akshar Nivasi Natvarbhai Babarbai Patel-Ahmedabad |
| Rs. 5,000/- | Parshottambhai B. Patel-Zulasan | Rs. 5,000/- | Vishal Narendrabhai Patel family-Ahmedabad |

List of Host devotees who availed the benefit of *Abhishek* of Shree Narnarayandev in Shree Swaminarayan Museum November-2012

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------|--|
| 28/09/2012 | Lalitikumar Jagjivanram Thakkar-Ahmedabad. | 20/11/2012 | Hasmukhbhai Kantilal Shah-Hyustan through Nalin Kantilal Shah |
| 28/08/2012 | Lalitikumar Jagjivanram Thakkar-Ahmedabad. | 21/11/2012 | Sudhirbhai P. Patel (Dasbhai) Bapunagar through Labhuben P. Patel, Neha, Chandrikabe, Vanesha |
| 11/11/2012 | Ramnikbhai B. Sardhara-Bapunagar | 23/11/2012 | Patel Tribhovandas Abhichanddas-Bhaopura through Pares and Vishwa |
| 12/11/2012 | On the occasion of Punya Tithi of Akshar Nivasi Krishnajivandasji throgh S h r e e j i p r a k a s h G u r u Raghuvircharandasji | 25/11/2012 | Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal and Shree Swaminarayan temple-Ghatlodiya on behalf of the whole Satsang Samaj |
| 16/11/2012 | Mahendrakumar Chhotalal Patel-Kaligam (Sabarmati) | 27/11/2012 | Shashikantbhai Patel-Unjawala-Canada through Udayanbhai Maharaja |
| 17/11/2012 | Rimaben Laxmanbhai Vekariya-London | | |
| 18/11/2012 | Kiritbhai Ramanbhai Patel-Ranip | | |

For booking of Mahapooja/Mahabhishek contact :

Museum Mobile : 98795 49597

Devotee Shri Parshottambhai (Dasbhai, Bapunagar) : Mobile No. 99250 42686

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DECEMBER-2012 ०15

DRY PREACHING WILL NOT WORK

- Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)

रोगार्तस्य मनुष्यस्य यथाशक्ति च मामकैः ॥

Dear friends! Plain reading of this sentence in Sanskrit of the pious 'Shiksha Patri' would not be easy to understand. So let us understand it with this example.

On completion of pilgrimage to the Northern India, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan started his pilgrimage to the Southern India. From Tirupati Balaji, Maharaj went to Rameshwar. On the way an incident happened.

One pilgrim named Sevakram fell ill. Within the next two days, his health deteriorated. His companions and disciples left him as nobody wanted to serve him due to his miserly temperament. Sevakram had one thousands rupees, but he did not want to part with a single penny from it. Now he was left alone in miserable condition. He started crying.

Bhagwan Swaminarayan was passing by the place. He saw Sevakram crying. Maharaj stopped his pilgrimage and started rendering service to Sevakram. Maharaj brought the herbal medicinal plants from the forest and its juice was given to Sevakram. Maharaj brought the raw material in *Bhiksha* from the nearby village, prepared the meals and offered all the meals to Sevakram so that he recovers his health. Now due to constant care and attention and ardent services of Maharaj, Sevakram was recovering from his illness. And thereafter, Maharaj resumed his pilgrimage.

Now the message we get from the above real incident from life of Shreeji Maharaj is that, mere preaching will not result into any changes among the listeners. Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan



संतसंग औलंपाटिका

SATSANG BALVATIKA

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji
(Gandhina)

has provided an example of his conduct as to how selflessly and how ardently one should render his services to Bhagwan and also to the society. Bhagwan gave priority to the illness of Sevakram and therefore, he stopped his pilgrimage. First rendered ardent and selfless service to Sevakram, without expecting anything in turn from him, despite knowing the fact that Sevakram was having one thousand rupees. And Maharaj resumed his pilgrimage only after Sevakram recovered his health,

In 'Shiksha Patri' Shree Hari has stated that, one should render his ardent services to the sick person. Mere dry preaching would not help one bring any positive changes in the society. For that, one has to put forward his own example in front of the society. So let us such inspirational *Leela-Charitra* of Shreeji Maharaj and try to imbibe them in our life.

SAHAJANANDI LIONS

- Sadhu Shrirangdas (Gandhinagar)

One historical event occurred in our *Sampradaya*. Once Shreeji Maharaj was

sitting under a banyan tree in Khokhra-Mahemdabad region. There were about sixty saints sitting around Maharaj. Now suddenly their talk changed into hot exchange of words. Maharaj asked one of the saints, "Whose *Dhyan* are you performing?" the saint replied, "Maharaj, Yours." Maharaj directed the saint, "From today onwards you will not perform my *Dhyan*, but you will perform *Dhyan* of Muktanand Swami. He is elder to me. Moreover, he is our *Guru-bhai* and therefore, from today onwards you must perform his *Dhyan*." the saint said, "No, Maharaj. I will not perform his *Dhyan*. I will perform only your *Dhyan*." At such reply Maharaj became angry and directed him to do whatever he was directed. But the saint refused it adamantly. Then Maharaj asked him to go away. The saint went away and sat under another banyan tree at a distance.

Now Maharaj was disturbed. So he gave the same directions to other saints to perform *Dhyan* of Muktanand Swami. But like the first saints, other saints also refused to obey the directions of Maharaj. Maharaj also asked them to go away. The saints went away and sat under other banyan

trees at a distance.

In this way, all the saints went away but nobody was ready to obey the directions of Maharaj to perform *Dhyan* of Muktanand Swami and not to perform *Dhyan* of Maharaj. Now only Maharaj and Muktanand Swami were left under the banyan tree. Maharaj asked Muktanand Swami, "Now what shall we do?" Muktanand Swami smiled and replied, "Maharaj, let us join them." Maharaj smiled and called all the saints and told them that they were successful in the test.

The saints were ready to go away from Maharaj but none of them was ready to abandon performing *Dhyan* of Maharaj. They were not ready to perform *Dhyan* of any other saint. So we have to understand the message from it.

“સો લાંઘણ કરી મરી જાય રે વિચારજો,
તોય કેસરી ઘાસ ન ખાય રે સાહેલી.”

A lion would die hungry after fasting of one hundred days but he would never eat the grass. Similarly, a real devotee of Shree Sahajanand Maharaj, who is popularly known as Sahajanandi Lion, would never perform *Dhyan* of any other person. He would perform *Dhyan* of Maharaj only.

Daan-Punya on the pious occasion of Uttarayan

There is great importance of Utsav of Uttarayan in India. When the Sun enters into *Makar Rashi*, it is known as *Sankranti-kaal* and it is considered to be very good. Many people give alms and render their beautiful services on this pious occasion.

So let us avail the benefit of the pious occasion of Uttarayan on 14/01/2013 in the pious company of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and let us render our services on this pious occasion.

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, renovation of inner temple of Shree Narnarayandev and golden throne of the deities of the temple is going on. So let us render our services of offering gold, as such a golden opportunity never comes twice in our life. The devotees, while rendering their services of offering gold, may obtain receipt from Kalupur temple.

- Mahant Swami : Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji,

**FROM THE BLESSINGS OF H.H. SHRI
GADIWALA (ON THE OCCASION OF
MAHILA SHIBIR OF IDAR DESH)**

- Compilation : Nilaben K. Patel

Mahila Shibir of Idar Desh was organized wherein ladies devotees of 28 villages had participated. The Sabha was conducted by Nilaben K. Patel. All the arrangements of residence and meals of the participant ladies devotees during the Shibir was made by Mahant Swami Jagdishprasaddasji. H.H. Shri Gadiwala had graced the occasion and had blessed all the ladies devotees. Here is an excerpt of the blessings of H.H. Shri Gadiwala delivered on this pious occasion :

After taking birth for eighty four lac times, a soul takes birth as human being. However, this human body is perishable. But the supreme is the soul and therefore in order to strengthen *Satsnag, Dharm, Gyan, Bhakti, Vairagya* etc. are required. There are two types of Dharma : Sadharan (common) and Vishista (special) Dharma. Sadharan Dharma is applicable to all. One should not get addicted to tobacco, one should not resort to violence etc. and there are special Vishista Dharma, which is caste-specific such as *Dharma of a Brahmin, Dharma of a Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra* etc. Similarly there is *Ashram-specific Dharma* such as *Dharma in Brahmacharyashram, Grihasthashram, Vanprasthashram, Sanyasthashram* etc. so we should follow either of them, whichever is applicable to us.

Moreover, '**Gyan**' means understanding things in their right perspective. '**Bhakti**' means to worship Bhagwan with ardent faith and devotion. '**Vairagya**' means to cherish *Sneh (affection)* only in Bhagwan and in nothing else. Now as per the popular sayings, 'Wherever is Cleanliness, there is Bhagwan'. So we should keep our mind and body clean. Just as we do not like any dirty place, Bhagwan also does not like to reside in our mind and our heart, if they are dirty. If a person takes bath in the water of the pious river Ganga, but his mind is not clean, then he is said to have taken bath only physically. For



purification of our mind we have to perform *Satsang*. And as per the directions in the scriptures of our *Sampradaya*, we should perform *Saint-Samagam* only after identifying the qualities of a real *Sadhu*.

There are nine types of *Bhakti*, popularly known as *Navadha Bhakti*. We can choose either of them as per our choice and our temperament. We can choose any of them, which one is very comfortable to us. By performing *Manasi Pooja* for five times, our mind gets purified. If we seek shelter of Maharaj, after leaving aside everything, Maharaj would definitely take care of us just as a mother takes care of her child.

SHAHER CHORYASI IN AHMEDABAD

- Patel Nisha Vishnubhai (Gulabpura)

After having the first ever temple of our *Sampradaya* in Shreenagar (Ahmedabad) and after invocation of the idol images of Shree Narnaryandev, Maharaj gave directions to Anand Swami to arrange for *Shaher Choryasi in Ahmedabad*. Anand Swami informed Maharaj that, there was no money in the *Kothar*, as all the money was already spent for construction of the new temple. Anand Swami also informed that, devotee Laldasbhai had some money with him. Maharaj inquired whether Laldasbhai was ready to spend the money he had for arranging *Shaher Choryasi* in Ahmedabad. The reply came after consultation at home that, Laldasbhai ready and willing to spend all the seven thousand rupees which he had for this noble purpose. Similarly other devotees also rendered their beautiful

services.

Now when invitation was sent to Brahmins and *Bhudevs* for *Shaher Choryasi*, the experienced and leading Brahmins told that, it would take at least six months' preparation to arrange for *Shaher Choryasi*. But Maharaj told them, they need not worry about the preparation and they should accept the invitation. The Brahmins accepted the invitation and in only one day all the raw material was purchased from the market of Ahmedabad and was brought at the bank of Kankaria lake. The Brahmins started preparing the sweets as per the tradition and the rest of the items were prepared by the devotees and cooks. In this way, grand *Shaher Choryasi* was organized and celebrated in Ahmedabad on the pious occasion of construction of first ever temple of Shree Narnarayandev in our *Sampradaya*.

IMPORTANCE OF DHARMKUL

- Gangani Jasuben Dayalbhai

One may wish to become a petal of flower of rose, one may want to become a fish and one may desire to be a star and reside near the Moon, but for that, one has to obtain eligibility for that. After accepting Kanthi from Guru, one should always remain under the directions of Guru. Maharaj has stated that, '*Dharmkul is very innocent.*' so we should never try to deceive *Dharmkul*. If we want to have our place in Akshardham then we have always to remain under the directions of Guru and should obtain the pleasure of our Guru. We have to scrupulously follow each word of directions of Maharaj and the Nand saints.

So without being misguided or misled by anything in this world which is full of Maya, all the devotees and Haribhaktas should always behave in such a way that may make Maharaj and the saints happy. We should always seek our shelter in our *Dharmkul* because it is the first step from where we can reach upto *Akshardham*. Someone may ask what is the location of this *Akshardham*? Then we should know that, first comes *Vaikunthdham*. Above *Vaikunthdham* comes *Golok*. And above *Golok* is situated our *Akshardham*. But before

we are allowed to enter Akshardham, at the gate, *Dwarpal* will ask us a question, "*Do you follow the directions of Dharmkul? Whether you behave in a way which gives pleasure to Dharmkul? Do you obtain pleasure of Dharmkul through your noble behaviour and conduct?*" and entry is granted only after these questions are answered affirmatively./

So let us ensure our entry in *Akshardham*, by doing in such a way that, we can answer the above questions affirmatively. Let us render our ardent Bhakti and services to our innocent *Dharmkul* and ensure eternal happiness which is there in our *Akshardham*.

ONE CAN GET NARAYAN THROUGH SATSANG

- Patel Labhuben Manubhai (Kundal)

Once Narad Muni asked a question to Mahadev, "What is the importance of Satsang?" in reply Mahadev asked Naradji to go to Mrutyulok (earth) and ask the same question to an insect. Naradji came to Mrutyulok and asked the question to an insect. Listening to this question, the insect died.

Naradji returned to the Himalayas and narrated to Mahadevji what happened in Mrutyulok. Mahadevji asked Naradji to ask the same question to a calf. Naradji returned to Mrutyulok and asked the same question to the calf, Listening to this question, the calf died. Naradji returned to the Himalayas and narrated to Mahadevji what happened in Mrutyulok. Mahadevji asked Naradji to ask the same question to a new born child.

Naradji came to Mrutyulok and asked the same question to a newly born child. The child smiled and said, "*You are the cause of my emancipation. You had asked the same question to an insect and also to a calf. I am the same insect and calf. Due to Satsang with you, now I have taken birth as human being. Now I will grow up, I will become a Satsangi and help other human beings to become Satsangis and ensure my and their emancipation in life.*" Naradji got the answer to his question. The message from this story is that, we get Narayan through *Satsang* only.

Celebration of Dipotsavi Utsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and with the inspiration and guidance of Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, *Dipotsavi* festivals were celebrated in our Ahmedabad temple with great fervour and enthusiasm.

On 12/11/2012, *poojan-archan* of Shree Hanumanji was performed on Monday Kali Chaudas in the evening at 6.30 hours by our Future Acharya H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj. Shree Hanumanji Maharaj is Kuldevta of *Dharmkul*. Both Poojari Parshad Babu Bhagat and Parshad Mahadev Bhagat had beautiful Shangaar on this pious day.

On 13/11/2012, ritual of Group Sharda Poojan was performed on Tuesday Diwali in the evening at 6.30 hours by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj wherein thousands of business devotees and *Haribhaktas* participated as per the Indian culture and tradition. For two hours ritual of *poojan* continued amongst chanting of Sanskrit Shlokas and at last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

On 14/11/2012, early in the morning at 5.00 hours Mangala *Aarti*, at 6.30 hours *Shangaar Aarti* and at 12.00 hours *Annakut Aarti* of Shree Narnarayandev was performed on the pious day of New Year Day of *Vikram Samvat 2069* by 6th, 7th and 8th Forms of Shree Hari. *Haribhaktas* and devotees availed the benefit of divine *Darshan* till 5.00 hours in the evening on the pious day. With the inspiration and guidance of Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, Sadguru Swami Haricharandasji, Bramchari Rajeshwaranandji, J.P. Swami, Bhandari Swami Suryaprakashdasji, Kothari J.K. Swami, Yogi Swami, Purani Swami Vishwavaharidasji, Natu Swami, Bhakti Swami and Ram Swami, Chetan Bhagat and all other *Haribhaktas* had rendered their valuable services during this Dipotsavi festivals. (Shastri Swami Narayanmunidasji)

Patotsav of Rangmahol Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj and Van-vicharan Panchan Parayan in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and our Future Acharya 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj and with

**News And Notes
From Shri
Narnarayandev Desh**

the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Brahmchari Rajeshwaranandji, from 23/11/2012 to 27/11/2012 *Shree Hari Van-vicharan Panchan Parayan* was organized in our Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ahmedabad with great fervour and enthusiasm. Sadguru Purani Swai Vishwavaharidasji Guru Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishandasji (Mahant of Ahmedabad) was the spokesperson of the *Parayan*. Devotee Shri Karshanbhai Manjibhai Hirani and Premjibhai etc. Hirani family (Rampar-Vekra (Kachchh) Gandhidham) rendered the services as the host of this *Parayan*. About 40 ladies devotees and *Haribhaktas* of the host family and all other devotees relished *Kathamrit*. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion of concluding ritual and blessed the host devotee family. On this occasion Kothari Parshad Digambar Bhagat, J.P. Swami, Kothari J.K. Swami, Yogi Swami, Natu Swami had rendered their valuable services. *Samhita Patha* was performed by Sadguru Purani Swami Dharmjivandasji. The *Sabha* was conducted by Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji.

127th *Patotsav* of Rangmahol Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj was celebrated on the pious day of *Kartak Sud-12* on Sunday 25/11/2012 from 6.30 to 7.00 hours by our Future Acharya 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj by performing *Shodasopchar Abhishek* of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj in Vedictradition.

With the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, devotee Shri Karshanbhai Manjibhai Hirani family (Rampar-Vekra- at present at Gandhidham-Kachchh) rendered the services as the host of *Patotsav* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. On this occasion J.P. Swami and Poojari Ram Swami rendered beautiful services. (Shastri Swami Narayanmunidasji, devotee Kalyanbhai Hirani)

Celebration of Sharadotsav in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant

Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji of Naranghat temple and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji and with the co-operation of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Naranghat and all other devotees and in the pious company of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Naranghat, *Shradotsav Raas* was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm on Sunday 28/10/2012. devotee Shri Dashrathbhai Ambalalbai Patel through Sanjy and Poorav (Chandkheda) had rendered the services as the host of this *Shradotsav*. The artists Poorav Patel and Mayank Modi sung beautiful Raas-Garba and large number of devotees and *Haribhaktas* participated in it.

Three *Haribhaktas* were honoured by Mahant Shastri swami Harikrishnadasji during Raas-Garba. At last benefit of Group *Aarti* and Prasad of Dudh-Pauva was availed by large number of devotees. During the whole Utsav, Balu Swami, Abhay Swami, Vraj Swami, Bhanu Swami and Divyaprasad Swami and Yuvak Mandal, Naranghat rendered their beautiful services. (Shastri Chaitanyaswaroopdasji)

Tridinatmak Bhakt Akhyan Parayan in Ishwarpura (Badpura)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Swami Devprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Mahant of Naranghat temple) and with the noble concept of devotee Shri Abhubhai Movtabhai Chaudhary and Nathiben Abhubhai of Ishwarpura and with the services as host by their son devotee Shri Bharatbhai Chaudhary, *Tridinatmak Bhakt Akhyan Parayan* was organised from 09/11/2012 to 11/11/2012 with Sadguru Shastri Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) as the spokesperson.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj had graced the occasion of concluding ritual alongwith the saints. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji, Shastri P.P. Swami etc. saints had delivered their inspirational speeches praising the services of the host family. Among the other saints, Sadguru Bhandari Swami Suryaprasadji, Brahmchari Swami Rajeshwaranandji, Sadguru Swami Jayprakashdasji, Shastri Swami Abhayprakashdasji, Shastri Vrajbhushandasji, Shastri Divyaprasadji and Swami Madhavpriyadasji had arrived on

the occasion. At last H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed the whole *Sabha* and the host family. The *Sabha* was conducted by Sadguru Shastri Swami Chaitanyaswaroopdasji. (Kotari, Badpura)

Sharadotsav in Approach (Bapunagar) temple

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami of the temple, *Haribhaktas* had celebrated *Sharadotsav* on the road outside the campus of the temple while singing *Kirtans* of Nand saints. Gavaiya saint Swami Harijivandas and Baldev Swami had arrived from Ahmedabad temple and had sung *Kirtans* of Nand saints. At last all the devotees availed the benefit of *Dudh-Pauva*.

With the inspiration of devotee Dasbhai, *Sharadotsav* was celebrated in Harshad Colony temple. On 20/10/2012 in Maun Mandir of Shree Swaminarayan Museum in the pious company of Shree Narnarayandev and H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Mota Gadiwala, ladies devotees of Harshad Colony temple had availed the benefit of Mahapooja and Abhishek of Shree Narnarayandev. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj had graced the occasion and had performed *Aarti* of Shree Narnarayandev.

Padyatra from Approach temple to Torda temple

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Laxmanjivandasji of temple and with the arrangements of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Bapunagar, 160 *Haribhaktas* participated in *Padyatra* from Approach temple to Torda temple, which started in the evening on 16/11/2012; from Prantij and Himatnagar, *Padyatra* reached to Torda temple on 19/11/2012 and all the devotees performed *Darshan* of Shree Gopallaji in Torda temple. (Gordhanbhai Sitapara)

Jivat Charya at village Trent

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Swami Atmaprasadji of Jetalpurdham, *Jivat Charya* of devotee Shri Rukshamaniben Manilalbai Patel was organized on 20/11/2012. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced this occasion alongwith the saints. The villagers performed grand *Shobha-yatra* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. The members of the host family devotee Shri Kantibhai Manilalbai Patel

performed *poojan, archan and Aarti* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj in the *Sabha*. About 50 saints from various places had arrived on this occasion. At last, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the host family. Thereafter, the saints and *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of *Prasad*. (Shastri Bhaktinandandasji)

Jivacharya at village Delwada

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji of Jetalpurdham, *Jeevanamrit Parva* of devotee Shri Pushpaben (wife of devotee Kantibhai) was organized on 17/11/2012. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced this occasion alongwith the saints. The members of the host family devotee Shri Vijaybhai, Shri Bharatbhai performed *poojan, archan and Aarti* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. In the *Sabha*. Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji and Shastri Ghanshyam Swami delivered their inspirational speeches. At last, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the host family. Thereafter, the saints and *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of *Prasad*. (Shastri Bhaktinandandasji)

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the houses of Kachchhi devotees in Nadiad

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji and Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji of Jetalpurdham, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj accepted the ardent invitation of devotee Shri Kanjibhai Hirjibai Velani of Dolatpur (Kachchh) at present in Nadiad and graced his new house on 23/11/2012 alongwith saints. Grand *Shobha-yatra* with 50 bikes was organized on this occasion. Thereafter, concluding ritual of *Yagna* was performed. The host family performed *poojan, archan* and obtained the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. Devotee Shri Rajnikantbhai and Ronakbhai (sons of host devotee) performed *poojan* of the saints. In the *Sabha* organized on the occasion, Shastri Swami Atmaprakashdasji and Shastri Swami Bhaktivallabhdasji delivered their inspirational speeches. At last H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj blessed the host family. (Shastri Bhaktinandandasji)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria

With the directions and blessings of H.H.

Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Mahant Swami Anandprasaddasji, *Dhoon-Bhajan, Katha-Varta* were organized at the houses of the devotees by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal during the pious *Shraddha-Paksha*. Shastri Swami Yagnaprakashdasji, Muktaswaroopdas, Hariprasad Swami and former Mahant Bhanuprasaddasji performed beautiful *Katha-Varta*.

Dhoon-Bhajan in Kankaria temple by Shree Hari Mahila Mandal

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Laxmiswaroop Gadiwala, *Kirtan-Bhakti, Dhoon-Bhajan* etc. were performed by the ladies devotees of Shree Hari Mahila Mandal in the noon from 3.30 to 5.50 hours during the pious *Shraddha-Paksha* and obtained the pleasure of Shree Hari.

Celebration of Shradotsav in Kankaria temple

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji and Mahant Swami Anandprasaddasji, ladies devotees and *Haribhaktas* of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal and Mahila Mandal had performed beautiful Raas-Garba on the pious day of Sharad-Purnima and Aucchav Mandal had performed beautiful Aucchav in front of Thakorji. At last all the devotees availed the benefit of *Dudh-Pauva*. On this occasion devotee Shri Narottam Bhagat and Nirubhai rendered their beautiful services. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Kankaria, Gauranghbhai)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Demai

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji and with the efforts of Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Demai, beautiful *Sharadotsav* was organized. On this occasion Shastri Swami Anandjivandasji (Haridwar), Shastri Swami Vishwaswaroopdasji, Swami Vishnuprasaddasji, Swami Sukhnandandasji and Swami Madhavprasaddasji had arrived from Ahmedabad. Saints, Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal and *Haribhaktas* of the village performed Rasotsav and *Aarti* and availed the benefit of *Prasad*. (Kothari)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mansa

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota

Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdasji, *Annakut* was offered to Thakorji on the pious occasion of New Year. Utsav Mandal had celebrated Utsav. Devotee Sheth Shri Naranbhai and Chaudhary Alkeshbhai and Naranbhai of Balva rendered the services as the hosts of this occasion. *Haribhaktas* of Mansa and nearby villages had availed the benefit of *Darshan* of *Annakut* on this pious day. Poojari Bhakti Swami etc. saints had rendered beautiful services. (Gavaiya Chandraprakashdas)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nandol

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, *Annakut* was offered to Thakorji in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Nandol on the pious occasion of New Year. Many *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of *Annakutotsav*. Devotees Shri Nandubhai and Jitibhai rendered the services as hosts of this occasion. The whole temple was decorated with series of light. Many *Haribhaktas* had rendered the services of preparing meals at their home. (Kothari Vishnubhai)

3rd Satsang Sabha in Amja

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, 3rd *Satsang Sabha* was organized in village Amja on 03/10/2012 wherein *Haribhaktas* of Balva, Visnagar, Nadr, Chandisana, Rampura, Pratapura, Limbodara and Manekpur had availed the benefit of this *Sabha*. On this occasion Sadguru Shastri Swami Purushotampakashdasji of Jetalpur and saints had arrived and blessed all the devotees. Devotee Shri Govindbhai Chaudhary rendered the services as the host of this *Satsang Sabha*. Shastri Swami Yagnaprakashdasji (Kankaria) Sadhu Muktswaroopdasji (Muli) and *Haribhaktas* of Balva and Amja villages had organized this *Sabha*. Shastri Swami Bhaktinandandasji, Shastri Hariprasaddasji from Jetalpur and saints from Mansa had arrived on this occasion. *Haribhaktas* of Balva and Visnagar availed the benefit of *Dhoon, Kirtan and Bhakti*. Devotee Shri Udayanbhai Maharaja from Visnagar had addressed the *Sabha*. (Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal, Balva)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Dhariyavad (Rajasthan)

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Brahmchari

Vasudevanandji, Anankut was offered to Thakorji on the pious day of New Year and *Dhoon, Bhajan, Kirtan, Katha* etc. were also performed on this pious occasion. The daily news paper 'Divya Bhaskar' had given beautiful coverage with photographs. (Kothari)

MULI DESH

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ratanpar

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and with the inspiration of Sadguru Swami Narnarayandasji, 40th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was celebrated on the pious day of Dasher. Moreover, *Sharadotsav* was also celebrating by performing *Dhoon, Bhajan, Kirtan* and Raas. All the arrangements were made by Kalu Bhagat. (B.R.Patel)

OVERSEAS NEWS

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Detroit

With the blessings of Shreeji Maharaj and with the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Swami Yogicharandasji and Poojari Sarveshwardasji, 40th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in our I.S.S.O. Shree Swaminarayan temple, Detroit. President Dr. Arvindbhai Patel and all the *Haribhaktas* had rendered their beautiful services on this occasion. Moreover, festivals like *Navrati, Sharadotsav, Dhanteras, Kali Chaudas, Diwali* etc. were celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. In the new year *Annakut Darshan* and Tulsi Vivah were also celebrated. Live *Darshan* of all the festivals was made available on our website. (Rinku Patel)

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, Saturday *Satsang Sabhas* were organized on 6, 13, 20 and 27 October 2012. On 11th and 25th *Satsang* was organized on the pious occasion of *Ekadashi*. In the *Sabha, Dhoon, Bhajan, Kirtan, Shiksha Patri Janmangal Namavali, Thaal, Aarti and Nitya Niyam* were performed. On 19th and 20th D.K. Swami from Colonia offered the benefit of *Katha-Varta* to the devotees and *Haribhaktas*. While celebrating 40th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, all the devotees cut the cake and Swami explained the importance of *Dharmkul. Sharadotsav* was also celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm. (Kanubhai Patel)

Shree Swaminarayan temple, Chicago

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, activity of Satsang has been increasing day by day. On the pious day of Vijaya-Dashmi, 40th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was celebrated by Shree Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal by cutting the cake.

On the pious day of Kali Chaudas, Poojan of Shree Hanumanji and on the pious day of New Year, *Mangala Aarti, Bhajan, Kirtan, Katha* and *Annakut* were performed in front of Thakorji. President Shri Jagdishbhai Patel read the letter of blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Swami Nilkanthprasaddasji and Swami Shantiprakashdasji stated to follow the rules and regulations of *Sampradaya* while following *Niyam, Nishay and Paksh*. (Vasant Trivedi)

Celebration of 40th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H.

Shri Acharya Maharaj in Shree Swaminarayan temple, Colonia

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and in the presence of Mahant Swami Gyanprakashdasji and Dharmkishordasji, thousands of *Haribhaktas* and devotees celebrated 40th *Prakatyotsav* on Saturday 28th October 2012 in the evening from 5.00 to 8.00 hours. On this occasion, the whole temple was decorated very beautifully. Shastri Dharmkishordasji had explained the

importance of *Dharmkul* very beautifully. In the *Sabha, poojan-archan* of photo-image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was performed by all the saints and devotees. Young children had cut the cake and had celebrated *Janmotsav*. At last the host family of the occasion was honoured by the saints. (Pravin Shah)

Satsang Sabha in North Carolina on the occasion of 40th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj

With the directions and blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, in the hall of Community Center of North Carolina, 40th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was celebrated by the devotees in the presence of Shastri Dharmkishordasji with great fervour and enthusiasm on the pious day of *Vijaya-Dashmi* on 21st October 2012.

Swami had explained the importance of *Dharmvanshi* in the beautiful *Katha*. On this occasion, devotees Kirtikantbhai, Vishnubhai, Suhasbhai, Nileshbhai, Ashishbhai and Ketanbhai had rendered the services as the hosts of the occasion. *poojan-archan* of photo-image of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj was performed by young children. *Thaal, Aarti, Nitya, Niyam* etc. were performed in front of Thakorji. At last all the devotees had availed the benefit of *Prasad*. (Ketanbhai)

AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad: Devotee Shri Kamlaben Odhavjibhai Patel (wife of the devotee Shri Odhavjibhai) passed away to Akshardham on 28/10/2012 while chanting the name of Shree Hari.

Dholka- Devotee Shri Natubhai Jagjivandas Soni passed away to Divine Abode of God on 03/11/2012 while chanting the name of Shreeji Maharaj.

Balol-Bhal- Devotee Shri Rambhaben (wife of the devotee Shri Devabhai (Bhrubha) Oghadbha Chavda) passed away to Akshardham on 10/11/2012 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Bavla- Devotee Shri Dipakkumar Natvarlal Prajapati passed away to Divine Abode of God while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Ahmedabad-Meghaninagar- Devotee Shri Kadviben (wife of devotee Shri Dayaljibhai Jethabhai) passed away to Akshardham on 22/10/2012 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Muli- Devotee Shri Jilubha Narayan Sangji Parmar (rendering services for 50 years to Shree Radhakrishnadev in agricultural activity) passed away to Akshardham on 31/10/2012 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Chandkheda- Devotee Shri Kantibhai Somabhai Chauhan passed away to Akshardham on 05/08/2012 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Palana (Dist.Gandhinagar)- Devotee Shri Jashbhai Haribhai Patel (82 years) (father of the devotee Shri Hareshbhai) passed away to Akshardham on 26/09/2012 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

Lunawada- Devotee Shri Kanchanlal Manilal Kachchhiya (Kothari of Shree Swaminarayan temple) passed away to Akshardham on 15/11/2012 while chanting the name of Shri Hari.

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