

(Under Shree Nar Narayan Dev  
Temple, Bhuj Kutch)



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'Purity of mind and idleness are incompatible' -  
Mahatma Gandhi

## Jay Swaminarayan

### Vasant Panchmi - 5th day of Spring (Maha Sud 5)

Vasant Panchmi represents the beginning of the spring season. Lord Krishna was once travelling with his companions, when they came across a field of multi-coloured flowers at Revtachal (Mount Girnar). They were all happy to see the flowers and joyfully showered each other with petals. Each year, people remember this Leela of Lord Krishna and shower Gulal powder (coloured powder) on each other.



On this day in Samvat 1882 (1826 AD), Lord Swaminarayan unveiled the Shikshapatri in the city of Vadtal. The Shikshapatri is one of the most important scriptures in the Swaminarayan Sampraday.

Shikshapatri – booklet of learning instructions, which contains the essence of Hindu dharma condensed into easy-to-follow instructions for everybody. It is written by Lord Swaminarayan himself.

By following the Shikshapatri, we can achieve our four pursharthas or objectives in life, namely:

- Dharma (righteousness)
- Artha (Wealth),
- Kama (Pleasure)
- Moksha (Salvation).

Shikshapatri poojan – this worship is performed on Vasant Panchmi each year.

One must always delegate, after proper consideration, a person with work just befitting his aptitude and ability, but never assign them work for which they are not suitable. -  
*Sikshapatri Slok 66*

## The Priest and the Prostitute



A wealthy prostitute, who was famous for her dancing, lived in a magnificent bungalow. On the opposite side lived a Priest who lived a very virtuous life, performing puja – *worship* twice a day.

Everyday, he would see men visiting the prostitute, who entertained them. He watched her bungalow daily and the thought of her sinful acts disgusted him. During his puja, he sometimes thought of the wicked prostitute and how lucky he was, being able to worship God and staying pure.

The prostitute used to see the priest everyday and think of him as a wonderful human being, performing puja and meditation everyday. Often, when she was entertaining the men, she resented her fate and wished she was as virtuous as the priest.



When the prostitute and priest died, they were brought before Dharamraja who dispensed justice according to people's good or bad deeds.

The priest was condemned for his wickedness and bad deeds and the prostitute was commended.

'I protest', the priest said. 'I have performed puja and meditation everyday, yet you condemn me.'

'Yes, that is true', Dharamraja said, 'But when you did puja, your mind was often dwelling on the bad deeds of the prostitute.'

The prostitute was shocked and said, 'What did I do to deserve praise?' Dharamraja said, 'You became a prostitute due to the circumstances which were beyond your control, but most of the times, you thought of the holy acts and worship performed by the priest. Your mind and heart remained pure, reflecting on the priest's acts of devotion.'

*Ravji Patel, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Cardiff*

## Nilkanth Varni (The incredible journey of Lord Swaminarayan)

### Nilkanth punishes cruel people



One day, Nilkanth Varni was travelling eastwards in the rough Himalayan terrain when he came to a river near the city of Bansi. Nilkanth decided to stay in the tranquil and peaceful atmosphere of the riverbank.

Once, on a very quiet and peaceful day, Nilkanth was sat under a tree. The birds were singing and he could hear the rustling of the leaves in the gentle breeze. Nilkanth saw two men with guns coming towards him. They were king's men from the city of Bansi.

One of the men fired his gun and a shot rang out. The bullet hit its target and a bird dropped to the ground near Nilkanth. The men were pleased to see the bird fall to the ground and just walked off casually. They often killed for sport and pleasure.

Seeing this cruel act, Nilkanth was heart-broken and very depressed. He did not eat anything for the whole day.

During the night, Nilkanth decided to punish the cruel people of Bansi. He closed his eyes and willed the city to burn. The two men who had killed the bird, died instantly and huge fires broke out everywhere in the city. Even the king's palace was on fire.



As soon as he had done this, Nilkanth realised that it is not appropriate for a sadhu or a holy man to give this kind of punishment. Nilkanth Varni decided to forgive the people of Bansi. He immersed himself in the river and the fires in the city went out instantly. After instructing the citizens of Bansi not to be cruel towards any living being, Nilkanth wandered off on his journey.

*Ravji Patel, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Cardiff*

'Killing animals for sport, for pleasure, for adventure, and for hides and furs is a phenomena which is at once disgusting and distressing. There is no justification in indulging in such acts of brutality.' - *The Dalai Lama*

## Vachanamrut of Lord Swaminarayan (Gadhada PP 44)

### Love towards God



Lord Swaminarayan explained that when you have total love towards God, you would constantly reflect on the image of God.

Then Brahmanand Swami asked, 'What is the means by which this kind of intense love is attained?'

Shriji Maharaj replied, 'Associating with saints and true devotees (Satpurush) is the means of attaining unwavering love towards God.'

Somlo Khachar asked, 'We are always associating with the saints but we still don't have that kind of intense love towards Bhagwan. What is the reason for this?'

Shriji Maharaj said, 'Half of the time, you keep our company and the other half you spend thinking only of the material things. This is why you don't have this kind of love towards God.'

The saints and devotees will teach us not to be materialistic and devote ourselves to Bhagwan, who will be our soul's immortal companion. They would become our gurus and give us the knowledge (gnan) to attain salvation and guide us to perform bhakti (devotion). After we achieve love towards God, a true saint does not come in the way, but leaves the path to salvation clear so that we could meet God. Some 'gurus' will show us God but they themselves will want to be worshiped alongside God.

Lord Swaminarayan tells us to associate with 'Satpurush' (good person) who would have genuine intentions for our salvation and not have any other selfish motives.

*A Satsangi, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Cardiff*

'As long as man eats animals how can cruelty to animals be removed'.

Morarji Desai

## e-Notice Board

[www.swaminarayanwales.org.uk](http://www.swaminarayanwales.org.uk)

### Festivals and Holy days – February 2011



**Vasant Panchmi**  
**Shikshapatri Jayanti** – Tuesday 8th Feb 2011



#### **Ekadashi**

Jaya Ekadashi Fast – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011  
Vijya Ekadashi Fast – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011



If you have any interesting facts, stories, jokes, or feedback for our next issue of Satsang e-Letter, please email them to us at [sstym@swaminarayanwales.org.uk](mailto:sstym@swaminarayanwales.org.uk)

### Remarkable Women - In the Swaminarayan Sampraday

There were many devout and loyal female satsangis during the time when Lord Swaminarayan was present on this earth. They were totally devoted to him and spent day and night serving Him. They ate simple foods, wore simple garments and renounced their families. Some outstanding examples include Bhakti Mata, Jamkuba, Jeevuba, Laduba, and Ladhiba.

Jamkuba, the Queen of Udaypur, was a faithful devotee of Lord Swaminarayan. She really wanted to meet the Lord, but was prevented by her husband. One evening she decided to run away from the palace. When the King realised that she had gone he sent out his soldiers to find her. They were unable to find her as she hid in the remains of a dead camel for three days, chanting 'Swaminarayan'. When Lord heard this story, He was very pleased with her and, sent her to Bhuj to live with Ladhiba where she could carry on with her devotion.



Jeevuba, elder sister of Dada Khachar, was not interested in worldly desires and normal activities associated with youth. She did not eat rich foods and slept on the floor. From a young age, she was interested in devoting her life to God and took the vow of life long celibacy. She spent most of her time praying before an idol of Bal Krishna. As well as organising large festivals, she devotedly served saints and devotees. She personally bought the ingredients for Lord's thaal (banquet) and prepared it lovingly with her own hands. Once, Lord Swaminarayan emerged from his murti (idol) when Jeevuba offered milk. If the Lord was away at other villages and towns, Jeevuba would not take any food or water until He had returned. She would meditate waiting for Swaminarayan Bhagwan to return. Seeing such devotion, the Lord decided to reside in Gadhpur.

Laduba was Jeevuba's sister. She, like her sister, wanted only to serve Lord Swaminarayan and His devotees. She was a faithful devotee of Lord Swaminarayan and always stayed near Him in order to serve Him. Even though she was married her mind always reflected on God. Her husband happily granted her wish to go back to her maternal home. She enjoyed organising great festivals in her town. On one Ankoot (new year day's feast), Laduba prepared a delicious meal and offered it to the idols. Swaminarayan Bhagwan was so pleased that He remained in the idols to accept all the dishes.

Both sisters could not stand being away from Lord Swaminarayan. Once when Lord was going on a visit to Vadatal, His horse, Manki, would not move from the courtyard of the Dada Khachar's residence. God realised that both sisters, together with other devotees were influencing the Horse. When He reassured them that He would not be away for long, they gave Him permission to leave. On this occasion, Premanand Swami wrote the famous kirtan, 'Manakiye Chadiya Re Mohan Vanamadi'.

*Harsha Patel, Shree Swaminarayan Temple, Oldham*

### Bhim's false pride



Bhim, the second of the Pandav brothers, was famous for his strength. He carried a mace and was said to have strength of ten thousand elephants.

Once, Bhim asked Kunti, his mother, 'Who is stronger than me in this world?'

Kunti did not reply because she knew that Bhim had become proud of his strength. He asked repeatedly for a few days and yet Kunti did not reply so Bhim started to sulk and went off into the jungle.

On the way, he found a giant sleeping in the middle of the road. When Bhim asked him to move aside, the giant refused, so Bhim picked up a huge boulder and threw it at the giant. The giant was not troubled at all and said, 'I would instantly kill you for throwing pebbles at me, but since I need my sleep, so I will give you till sunset to get away.'

Bhim knew that he had met his match and started running. He came upon an even bigger giant, who had had his hands cut off, standing in his way.

'Could you please save me from a giant who will come to kill me at sunset,' Bhim asked him. 'Sure, just stay behind me and I will protect you.' The bigger giant replied.

At sunset, the first giant came and asked the bigger giant, 'Did you see a "kid" pass this way?'

'Yes, he is hiding behind me,' said the bigger giant. Bhim felt that he had been betrayed.

As the first giant ran to catch Bhim, the bigger giant caught him and held him with his arms. Bhim said, 'Thank you for saving my life, but may I ask you a question? Who has cut off your hands? You are more powerful than the giant who could have killed me.'

'It was the powerful Arjun, one of the Pandav brothers, who used his arrows to cut off my hands. I have vowed to kill all the Pandav brothers for this.'

Bhim instantly realised that he had been foolish in being proud of his own strength. Arjun was even stronger than him but never boasted about it. His pride had vanished and he ran off towards home.

We should not become proud or arrogant of our achievements and never think that nothing can be achieved without us. The impression we make in this world is like the water displaced by our body in a bath. As soon as we get out, everything is as it was before. The world would carry on without us, regardless!

One of the many names of God is 'Garva Ganjan' – *destroyer of pride* and will defeat our pride whenever we have it. In Ramayan, Ravan was destroyed because of his pride.

*Jaadish Gorasia. Shree Swaminarayan Temple. Cardiff*

### Important words

The **six** most important words: 'I admit I made a mistake.'

The **five** most important words: 'You did a good job.'

The **four** most important words: 'What is your opinion?'

The **three** most important words: 'If you please.'

The **two** most important words: 'Thank you,'

The **one** most important word: 'We'

The **least** important word: 'I'

