

॥ श्री स्वामिनारायणो विजयतेतराम् ॥



Be a Watchman, vigilant and alert.
Let not the Evil peep into your heart.
The Castle of the Divine.



sahajanand

The Eternal Bliss

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Prelude

H. H. Acharya Shri
Rakeshprasadji Maharaj

Lord Swaminarayan, willingly and compassionately, talked about the welfare of all beings. His discourses are motivating and excellent. He talks about the form and glory of the Lord. He also talks about the ways to become free from small or big vices in life. He also talks about how to become an absolute devotee. Shree Hari has talked about all these things in His discourses at various places. Most of these sermons are delivered in the courtyard of Dada Khachar at Gadhadra. Rest were delivered at Sarangpur, Kariyani, Loya, Panchala, Amdavad and Vadatal. Lord Swaminarayan delivered twenty vachnamruts at Vadatal. I would like to explore them here.

In the first vachnamrut of Vadatal, Shree Shobharam Shastri, a learned scholar of Vadodara, asked Shreeji Maharaj, 'O great Lord ! When an aspirant attains Nirvikalpa Samadhi (absolute superconscious state), he transcends the modes of Maya and becomes an absolute devotee of God. Then what would be the position of a person who does not attain absolute superconscious state?'

Shreeji Maharaj gave a detailed answer. He said, 'It is not true that absolute superconscious state is attained only when Prana (vital energy) is controlled. Absolute superconscious state can be achieved by another method too.' Then Shreeji Maharaj quoted a verse from Shreemad Bhagvat which said : Shree Krishna Bhagvan, the supreme refuge of all, can be known by nine characteristics including Sarg (invisible creation), Visarg (visible gross creation) etc.. In that form the aspirant may cultivate firm faith.

Saying this, Shreeji Maharaj gave the example of a mango tree. That, once we know that this is a mango tree, then we will not have any illusion or doubt about it. Even when he is lustful, angry or avaricious he would have no illusion about the existence of the mango tree. Similarly a person who has firm faith in Shree Krishna Bhagwan before him would never have any doubt. That would be his superconscious state even when his vital energies are withdrawn or not withdrawn.

Explaining His point further, Shreeji Maharaj said that a person with confused thought about God may be thinking thus : How must be the form of God in Brahmapur, Shwet-

Dweep and Vaikunth? When would he be able to see that form respectfully? He would thus continue his confused thinking. But he would not feel the mission of his life fulfilled by thinking of God before him as the cause of all causes. If, God willing, such a person experiences superconscious state his confused thinking would not end. Even in superconscious state he would desire to see still more and more of new objects but his negative thoughts would not come to an end. The superconscious state achieved by such a person is Savikalp. Even when he is not in superconscious state he would be as good as having a Savikalp - superconscious state because his desire to see more and more of God persists.

Shreeji Maharaj here suggests that - When a person cultivates a firm faith in the form of the Lord, then he would leave his bad nature and feel that for the welfare of his Jiva, Parbrahm Purushottam Narayan descended on this earth and founded this Holy Faith for him, also built big temples Himself for the kalyan of all and Lord Swaminarayan Himself consecrated His archa swarup Moorti. When a devotee believes this firmly, he does not have any illusion. His Moksha is attainable in this Holy Faith easily.

contd.



RAS DARSHAN

Lalji Bhagat
Jnan Baug
Vadtal

LAMENT NOT DEATH

પ્રભુની ઈચ્છાથી થવાનું થાય, નથી એનો આ જગમાં ઉપાય;
જ્ઞાની જનો તો ધીરજ ધરે છે, અજ્ઞાની રોઈ કૂટી મરે છે.
રોવા થકી કંઈ નથી થવાનું, મરી ગયું તે નથી આવવાનું;
કૂટ્યાથી છાતી દર્દે પીડાય, રોવા થકી નેત્રનું જળ જાય.
પુત્રાદિ છે સૌ પ્રભુનો જ માલ, આપે અને લે વળી કોઈ કાળ;
ઉછીનું ધન આપ્યું પાછું લેશે, તેનો તે કરવો શિદને કલેશે.

- હરિલીલામૃત

Whatever happens, it happens by the will of God.

And there is no remedy for it in this world.

Knowledgeable persons keep patience.

The ignorant ones begin to weil and weep.

Weeping will not do any good.

The dead will never return.

By beating the bosom will get pain.

By weeping the eyes will shed water.

Sons etc. are the consignment of God.

At times He gives and takes back.

Whatever He lends, he will take back.

Why should you lament for it.

Whatever happens in this universe happens as the result of the will of God who acts as our mother. As a mother always desires good of her

children, the God also does the welfare of human beings. Man considers all relations as his right but he does not consider them from the view point of welfare. When a dear one departs from this world all become unhappy and sorrowful because they will not get any benefit from that person now onwards. They do not understand his value as long as that person was alive and that is the bitter reality of this world.

Mother, father, brother, sister, son, husband, wife, etc. constitute the material sent by God. God makes them born, nourishes them and when their fruits of action are complete He makes them free, and this is unalterable and unchangeable arrangement of God and it is timeless and ageless. Ichchharamji the younger brother of God had passed away at a young age, right before His very eyes. He happened to be the brother of God and yet this had happened!

When someone leaves India and goes to America his relatives neither weep, nor mourn, nor lament because they know it well that the outgoing person will become richer in that country. In the same way when someone leaves this world which is full of pain, selfishness, quarrels, and feuds, and goes to the abode of God where he is going to get pure happiness from the Moorti of Lord Swaminarayan. You just imagine that soul as sitting close to the lotus-feet of God. Please get this point confirmed in the heart.

Our Holy Fellowship considers death as an auspicious event of life and it is the inevitable and unavoidable process. Shriji Maharaj Himself left for His abode at the age of 49. So let this point be well mugged up in our mind. This is the only remedy and this type of sacred understanding will bring real peace.

We feel unhappy when a very precious article is stolen from our house. All may become unhappy due to the sad death of a dear one. This kind of sorrow is natural and spontaneous. But this riddle should be solved by meditating on God. We should believe that Lord Swaminarayan stays with us and in the same way the person who has given us culture and love, he too stays with us, of course in the indirect form. With this view in mind we should keep ourselves associated with God. That is the only means to gain peace.



Mother's day

It was pleasant morning walk after Mother's Day. Spring weather was beautiful; the Sun light was bright and soothing, the wind was blowing smoothly and trees were showering flowers on us. The green trees and lawn grass were looking beautiful.

During walk, sudden thought came up and reminded me about the Mother's day. In USA, mother's day is celebrated on second Sunday of May; son/daughter spend their good time with mother for dinner/game/play or

family dinner at home as well as giving a gift – the symbol of love and appreciation to mother. On this occasion, We celebrate Mother's Day with American cum Indian tradition/culture. The delicious vegetarian food is cooked and offered to Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. Also we wish to Bhagwan "Happy Mother's Day" and pray. We enjoy meal; wish wellness, happiness with love & affection and give gifts to mothers.

If we go back to our Indian tradition/culture, It reminds us The Vedas/Upanishad that women play very significant role as a mother in society. Mother plays important role in shaping and imparting cultural and moral values to their children.

It says "Matru Devo bhava; Pitru Devo bhava"

Mother is highly respected like Dev. Also Manusmriti says, "Deva resides where woman is respected."

Also Swaminarayan Bhagwan writes in Shiskapatri Verse - 139 that my followers may serve their Parent - mother/father during their life time.

In essence we are considering Bhagwan as our mother, father, friend, brother. In essence God is our everything. Here we should mean what we say. We should not feel lonely, depressed if we really consider Bhagwan everything for us. We should take pride that we are sons/daughters of Bhagwan.

The Satsangijivan scripture of Swaminarayan Sampraday says that Bhagwan Swaminarayan did seva to His mother and father during his childhood when Bhakti mata - the mother of Ghanshyam was sick and lying on bed during her last days of life. Ghanshyam was with His mother, rubbing legs, giving comforts and blessed her with spiritual enlightenment!

This is beauty of Lord Swaminarayan who practiced real dharma during His life and then advised His followers.

In essence, let us keep sprit of our culture with other traditions on this occasion.

- Mohan Patel
New York, USA



Health & Spirituality

Dr. Harishankar Sharma

Healing Through Mantra

Don't teach Baa Bas Black Sheep. Teach :
Vakrathunda mahaa kaaya, Surya koti samprabha...
Read on.

Western researchers reveal why children who memorize sanskrit mantras become super intelligent as they grow up*

Neuroscience shows how rigorous memorising can help the brain. The term the 'Sanskrit Effect' was coined by neuroscientist James Hartzell, who studied 21 professionally qualified Sanskrit pandits. He discovered that memorising Vedic mantras increases the size of brain regions associated with cognitive function, including short and long-term memory. This finding corroborates the beliefs of the Indian tradition which holds that memorising and reciting mantras enhances memory and thinking.

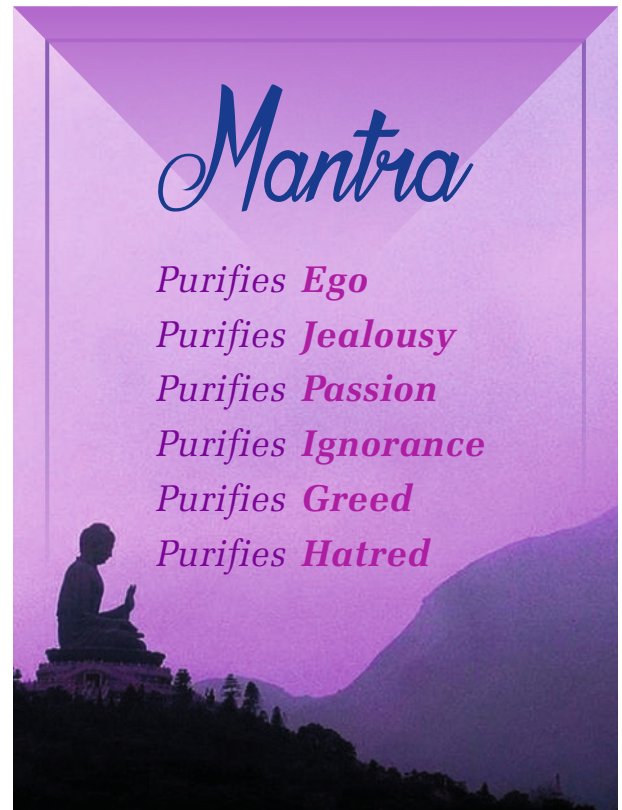
Dr Hartzell's recent study raises the question whether this kind of memorisation of ancient texts could be helpful in reducing the devastating illness of Alzheimer's and other memory affecting diseases. Apparently, Ayurvedic doctors from India suggest it is the case and future studies will be conducted, along with more research into Sanskrit.

While we all know the benefits of mindfulness and meditation practices, the findings of Dr Hartzell are truly dramatic. In a world of shrinking attention spans, where we are flooded with information daily, and children display a range of attention deficit disorders, ancient Indian wisdom has much to

teach the West (and their 'modernised' intellectual serfs in the East).

Even introducing small amounts of chanting and recitation of the common Sanskrit mantras like Gayatri mantra daily could have an amazing effect on all of our brains.

<https://upliftconnect.com/neuroscience-and-the-sanskrit-effect>



Vidurji was an expert Nitigna, an exponent of moral codes. He was an ideal state minister and a devotee too. In today's terminology, he was a motivational speaker of high calibre.

Neeti has an important place in our society. We try to follow Neeti. Yet, it becomes difficult to follow Neeti in difficult circumstances. In difficult circumstances, what should be done to follow Neeti is called Neeti Shastra. Lord Swaminarayan accepted Vidurji's Neeti Shastra and recognised it as a Satshastra in Shikshapatri.

Vidurji taught lessons of morality to Dhrutrashtra. Yet he remained aloof from all the quarrels and never allowed himself to be influenced by them. Vidurji showed the ways, gave solutions and established standards of morals. These views are known as Vidur Neeti. Ved Vyasji compiled these concepts, which is known as Vidurji's Neeti Shastra.

Vidurji was the eye-witness of the biggest battle of Hindustan. He was the minister of the state, Hastinapur. The battle was fought between the two families, Kauravas and Pandavas, of that state. He was the uncle of the warring factions. He was a policy maker and true righteous person. So he always spoke about Dharma, Nyaya and ethics. He never wrote these ideals but lived them. His codes of conduct came to be known as Vidur Neeti.

One question arises : How can a policy which was conceptualised 5000 years ago be applicable today? For us, the followers of Swaminarayan Sampraday, Vidur Neeti is

important because Lord Swaminarayan suggested to follow it. Two hundred years ago in Shikshapatri, Lord Swaminarayan opined it as a Shatshastra. Vidur Neeti Shashtra is one of the eight Satshashtras suggested by Lord Swaminarayan. As Lord Swaminarayan suggested it as a Satshashtra, the scripture becomes important for us. This is a religious viewpoint.

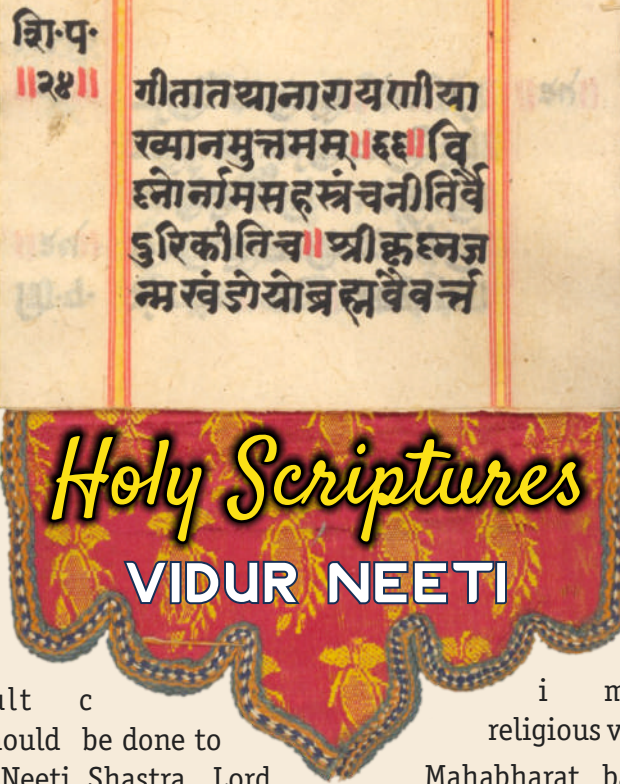
Mahabharat battle was fought 5000 years ago. During that time whatever Vidurji said is applicable even today. Lord Swaminarayan realised that and suggested us to read, to listen, to understand and to follow it. Vidurji's Neeti Shastra, the moral code of conduct helps a person come out of difficult situation and that is why whoever follows it gets the best result.

Vidur Neeti Shastra has other dimension too. Hastinapur state family was the richest and in that family insoluble situation took place every now and then. Vidurji hoped and tried to bring amicable solution to those problems. So, he always tried to give a policy based on Nyaya and Dharma. So he applied his policies. The results are known to us. So, Vidur Neeti was tested. It is not a verbal or a written theory.

Now the important question is : When Vidurji and his advice was available, why did the Kauravas lose the battle? In fact, the Kauravas were ruined. That happened because they did not listen to Vidurji's advice.

Vidurji was knowledgeable but never enforced his ideas. He merely did his duty. Vidur Neeti is relevant even today.

- Dr. Swami Santvallabhdasji



Diet tips Fit 4 life

Wellness Pledge Calendar

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 01 | I will eat at least one meal with my family. | | |
| 02 | I will start my day with water and lime. | 21 | I will try one new vegetable today. |
| 03 | I will do minimum 30 minutes of any exercise today. | 22 | I will eat one green leafy vegetable like spinach. |
| 04 | I will eat breakfast and leave for work. | 23 | I will stay away from electronic gadgets close to bedtime. |
| 05 | I will eat two fruits (one seasonal) a day. | 24 | I will eat more from nature and less from a packet. |
| 06 | I will sleep at least 7-8 hours today. | 25 | I will drink water/fresh juice and avoid packaged/aerated juices. |
| 07 | I will eat a bowl of raw veg. salad at any meal time. | 26 | I will manage my anger with high intense exercise. |
| 08 | I will not eat fried food today. | 27 | I will not eat any dessert after or with dinner. |
| 09 | I will get adequate exposure to natural light. | 28 | I will stop eating once I feel full. |
| 10 | I will dine two hours prior to bedtime. | 29 | I will go for a walk with a friend/family member today. |
| 11 | I will only drink one cup of coffee or tea today. | 30 | I will read nutrition facts label, before buying food packages. |
| 12 | I will not eat any packaged food such as biscuits, chips, etc. | | |
| 13 | I will eat a mix of fistful of nuts and dried fruits in between main meals. | | |
| 14 | I will eat all my meals at regular time. | | |
| 15 | I will avoid caffeine, nicotine close to bedtime. | | |
| 16 | I will consume 3 liters of water and fluids. | | |
| 17 | I will speak up if I feel depressed. | | |
| 18 | I will not consume any white sugar today. | | |
| 19 | I will eat half portion of my meals as vegetables. | | |
| 20 | I will avoid elevators and take stairs. | | |

Bhakti

Unconditional love for God is the best healing force in the world, nothing can go deeper than love. It heals not only the body, not only the mind, but it heals the soul too!

If one can love then all one's wounds disappear. Then one becomes WHOLE - and to be WHOLE is to be holy, to be divine!

PROVERBS

REFLECTED IN THE VACHANAMRITAM

Prof. Madhusudan Vyas, Vadodara

KARIYANI CHAPTER – 7



*The Dog of a Washerman belongs neither
to House nor to the River Bank*



A large religious sermon meeting was held at Kariyani. Many household people, Munis and saints from near and far off states were listening to the Lord. But often questions were thrown on the floor for open discussion. When the people in the meeting failed to arrive at satisfactory solution of the question the Lord had to intervene. There rose a question about the difference between so called fickle, feeble, faltering, fake and temporary acceptance of asceticism and the firm, real, concrete and staunch asceticism. No perfect solution to this question could be found even after many rounds of careful discussion. The Munis requested Shri Hari to throw light on the point. The Lord accepted their request and offered an adequate solution to the problem by citing the proverb regarding the condition of a

washerman's dog, who is bewildered between two points of compass i.e. home and riverbank. He moves between these points like the pendulum in a wall clock. Western philosophy defines this situation as the delusion existing between the two horns of a dilemma. Now let us see, who is that pendulum or the washerman's dog? Indian mythology defines such oscillation as condition of Trishanku. Acceptance of asceticism is one usually by the household, saints, Munis or Paramhansas and the adopter may be Sattvik, Rajasik or Tamasik. The term of acceptance may be (a) purely temporary (b) short lived (c) permanent and well-organised. The permanent and well organized asceticism makes him a firm and staunch ascetic. Whatever may come he does not budge. He is never disturbed or distracted. The Bhagwad Geeta describes this as Brahmi condition of Sthitaprajna. The one whose acceptance of asceticism is purely temporary or tentative drops it off and soon returns to normal material life. The example of washerman's dog applies to the faltering, oscillating acceptance of asceticism. As being tired or disappointed in worldly life the fellow adopts asceticism. Due to immature acceptance his mind moves between freedom

of the soul and worldly desires. He hangs like a pendulum and moves between two points of the compass. He is confused between two voices - one from the soul and other from the body. In order to explain this bewilderment the Lord gives the example of washerman's dog. CHATAKI or click of mind is the main purpose of asceticism. One who receives this type of CHATAKI, click, spur or knack does not return from asceticism. Like the washerman's dog he does not vascilate between home and riverbank. Climax of asceticism remains his final destination. We can call it iconic or spiritual destination. The Lord emphasises the point of strong concrete and solid faith in the acceptance of asceticism. If the washerman's dog returns home to get food and comfort he gets nothing because doors are closed. If an ascetic drops asceticism and returns to worldly life he gets nothing. Therefore total renunciation puts him on the riverbank which functions as his final destination in spiritual progress. Just remember the opposite spelling of GOD is DOG.

SCRIPTURES

our heritage

Once, sitting at a seashore, a gentleman was reading Bhagwad Gita. A boy came there and said, "It's the world of science. Still you people read such books? The world has reached the Moon and you guys are still stuck on the Gita and Ramayan?" The gentleman asked the boy, "What do you know about the Gita?" The boy answered enthusiastically, "Oh forget it! I am a student of Vikram Sarabhai Research Foundation. I'm a scientist. Gita is a waste for us!"

The man started laughing. Just then, two cars came there. A few black commandos came out of one car, and out of another, a security guard came out. He opened the door and the gentleman quietly sat in the car.

The boy was dumbstruck looking at all this. He ran and asked the man, "Sir, who are you?" The man answered, "I am Vikram Sarabhai!" Hearing this, the boy got a shock. The boy was Abdul Kalam.

Reading the Bhagwad Gita, Dr. Abdul Kalam had taken a vow to not eat meat his entire life.

Gita is a great science. We should take pride of it!

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Whats & Whys

Answers to the questions of curious seekers

Pradakshina

(Clock wise circular movement to God's idol)

There are some tools and gestures which please God, Pradakshina is one of them. In Sanskrit, **Dakshin** means right. When you keep on moving to your right side and take (circular) rounds encircling some object, this type of action is called the process of Pradakshina. It is such behaviour which Shriji Maharaj first put into practice and then recommended the same to His devotees.

Shriji Maharaj Himself used to offer two hundred rounds of Pradakshina at Vadtal temple! When a devotee goes to the temple first, he prefers to have Darshan and then offers Pradakshina to the temple. The circular movement gives the idea of circle which always has a center point. Many things and objects, wealth and power in the universe are created and they perish but who is at the center? Who is the center of our life? There is only one answer "The most gracious Lord Swaminarayan."

He is the source behind creation and destruction of this mysterious universe. He nourishes us with the help of five fundamental elements and keeps our life fresh and flowing. So we are extremely obliged to Him. With this thought in mind we offer Pradakshina to Lord Swaminarayan.

The sphere (orbit) may be small or big but its every point remains at equal distance from the center point. The span of life may be of any size but God smiles on us from equal distance at

every point of life. This sense of warm awareness regarding blissful presence of God can be possible only through the practice of Pradakshina. If Pradakshina is done with the chanting of holy Mantra Swaminarayan, remembering His life-sports and grace of Lord Swaminarayan, it can create better vibrations in the mind. We may go anywhere on business tour but finally we return home. In the same way, Pradakshina is a means to bring our mind back to the idol of Shriji Maharaj and realize His presence around us. By doing Pradakshina the mind stops wandering and becomes stable in the idol of God.

If we look from psychological point of view, when we enter a temple, our mind is crowded with so many external thoughts. Actions and reactions of routine life disturb the mind. When we get the Darshan of Lord Swaminarayan, the mind is pacified. When we offer Pradakshina, our mind and body get new rhyme and rhythm. Mind and body are refreshed and get associated with God.

Some people are extra careful about counting the number of rounds in doing Pradakshina and some indulge in routine talk during the process. In both the cases, the center or the main function is lost. The purpose of Pradakshina is to associate mind and body in the devotion of God. Stability of mind and better concentration can please the Lord. This is the significance of Pradakshina.

Armour Against THREATENING **CORONA**

Prayer, The Panacea *for* all pervading calamity

Apprehension is more terrifying than Encounter !!!

Nowadays peoples of the two hemispheres of this globe are passing through a fire-like ordeal namely Corona virus. Philanthropic efforts, in the form of relief operations are being made by NGOs and political parties every where. Leading scientists of the world are trying to search an antidote against this deadly epidemic, but thus far their efforts have remained woefully unsuccessful. We hear the slogans

'Be quarantined, be at home, observe strict social distancing.' For this clear reason the confidence level of the common man is today in tell-tale condition. "How far will it last? When shall it end?" - This fear has gripped entire mankind. What is the way out? Where is the panacea?

But the apprehension of virus is virulent than virus. Fake fear or phobia is more horrifying than actual encounter. The phobia or shadow of death is more hateful than actual encounter with death. If a man gets common cold or coughing he will start thinking that he has been hit by corona virus. So phobia is the highest order of virus in the world at present, and it may turn a living person into a living corpse. This problem has spread from corner to corner of the world. Due to fake fear a man gets frustrated or meets an untimely death!

The brave meets his death and dies only once on the battle field, but the coward dies many times before the actual death. A retrospect of human history will show that such tricky and knotty problems have appeared on the face of the earth for more than once, and many appear in future. The next war may not be fought with arms, weapons or atom bomb but with living armaments. Only a simpleton or dullard who is meak and weak trembles with fake fear and that phobia eats him up. But the brave and the knowledgeable counts this period as an opportunity or a fair vacation to be utilized in the best way possible. He knows that he has passed the major time of his life in hustle, bustle brain storming hyper activities for money-making. He understands that 'Lock down' should not knock him down, but he acts like the most intelligent and imaginative



tradesman in the stock market. The expert investor in the share market utilizes the time of depression for profit-making. He is sharp enough to invest money in buying shares at when pivots plummet and prices move down during the bearish trend. He waits for prices to go up and earns money by selling the same shares at higher price. When the market becomes cheerful and prices rise up during bullish trend.

Why not utilize this golden time in investing your moral and ethical energy? Such period comes only once after twenty or thirty year. Be at home, look inward and concentrate on your inner self. Engage yourself in good reading of books like Vachanamritam, Shikshapatri, Bhaktachintamani, Bhagawat Gita, Srimad Bhagwat or Ramayan. Watch such videos which would elevate your mind and soul. Wear childlike freshness on your face.

Refrain from the news, declaration, announcements, rumours or gossip which would create negative effect on your mind because such things may create phobia about the virus.

If negative thought repeatedly crosses your brain it may create disturbance in the chemical fluid generated in the brain. Repeated negative reactions make this fluid virulent. Such menacing thoughts reiterate thoughts leading to death or suicide. Such negative reactions do not allow to live present life happily. Apart from corona there are more important points to be attended carefully.

Better you divert your attention from corona and focus it on the form of God. Contemplation, meditation on God, Dhyan and Dhun i.e. Mantra-chanting will create an aura in the form of an invisible armour around you and your family. This shield or armour will protect you from the adverse effect of virus and will keep out all negative forces which may contaminate your life.

Death is certain and one day it will become inevitable and unavoidable. Why apprehend it at the wrong moment and spoil your present happiness! Why not to decide to proceed towards real happiness by pursuing your conscience towards Lord Swaminarayan? Read sacred books and listen to motivating holy talks by remaining in the association of august saints. Time is an ever flowing, ever changing, ever green river. The calamity will also pass out like the times of war, riots, flood, fire, plague, loot, arson, mutiny, battles and earthquakes. Do not share fake fear till natural death arrives. Natural death is welcome but its distressing and frustrating, soul churning phobia is hateful.

- Lalji Bhagat

Jnang Bag - Vadtal

RECOVERY

Doesn't mean my
problems go away...

...It just means
I have the tools
to deal with them.

There was a Brahmin called Pranvallabh who lived in Ahmedabad. Considering material world as unreal and God as real He worshipped Lord Swaminarayan night and day. Once he went on a pilgrimage and went to Godavari where he was caught by a deadly virus called Maraki (plague). Within a few days the deadly disease ate up his body and his soul left the body

When the last moment came, the Lord came to take him away to His Akshardham. The Brahmin set out to go with Shriji Maharaj. Then the Lord asked him if he cherished in his mind some unfulfilled desire. So Pranvallabh said, “I had no time to declare in advance that I was leaving the body. My kiths and kins will be left in sorrow caused by my sudden and instant death. It had been better if I could tell them about my oncoming death somewhat beforehand. They will say that I met my death like others. They will take it as usual and very common. I did not get a chance to show my spiritual merit gained through Your devotion. As Your devotee I should show them something outstanding about my death.

Kahe Nath tu jaa deh maay,
Kahi aav tu sahune tyay.

Then the Lord said, “You go back into your body, start living routine life, inform your relatives about your death well in advance and then come to our abode.”

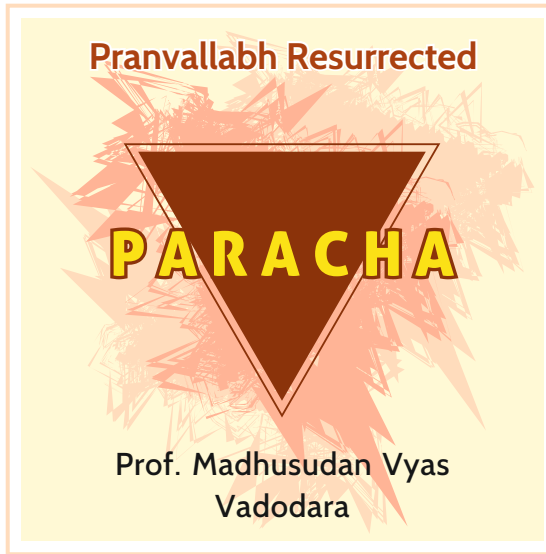
Pachhi pachho avyo jyare pran, Tya
to tan lai gaya ta
masaan;

Khadakya kashta
ma salvayu tan, sahu
ashcharya panya
mann.

So he agreed to go back into the body. As he decided to return into the same body and returned home, to his surprise he saw

that his relatives had taken the body to the cremation ground for final rites. Wooden planks were arranged as bed. The dead body was placed on it and they were about to light the pyre. One moment before they set fire to the pyre the relatives saw that the dead body showed some movement. They went near and saw that the body was gaining consciousness and coming back to life.

They began to discuss, “The fellow had really died and how has the soul



come back into the body? What a wonder this fellow comes back to life!”

Out of great wonder and amazement they asked Pranvallabh to tell them how it had become possible for him to come back into the body which had been taken to the cremation ground.

Then Pranvallabh said, “I had left this body as I set out to go to the abode.”

*Aa to kaal no veg chhe bhari,
naakhshe nar nari ne mari;*

*Mano maru etalu vachan,
tali padi ne karo Bhajan.*

“O good fellows! I have come back to give you one important message. The force of Kala (Yama) is very strong and it will kill all men and women and will take them to hell. If you want to enjoy liberation after death as I have achieved, you just take the name of Lord Swaminarayan. Believe my words. You just clap your hands, chant the name of Lord Swaminarayan and you will be able to cross the ocean of life very happily.

Then as demonstration he sang the Dhun (chanting Mantra while clapping) asked all people present to sing and clap and he, too, sang and clapped hands to accompany the group. He had come back to explain the mystery about his coming back into the body. He had come

to inform them in advance and forecast his own death. Also he had come back to communicate the message how devotion for Lord Swaminarayan can make your death sublime. When all this had been done, as his sole purpose was accomplished, as he had satisfied himself and his fellowmen he declared that now he was leaving them forever. Now is the time to depart. Last time it was done in a hurry and haste. This time I had enough time to inform you and convey my message to all of you.

Now I take your leave. Let me say goodbye to all. Just remember one thing. Do the Dhun and chant the name of Lord Swaminarayan as I have just demonstrated it before you. After speaking these words, he left the body and lakhs of people present there fell into great surprise.

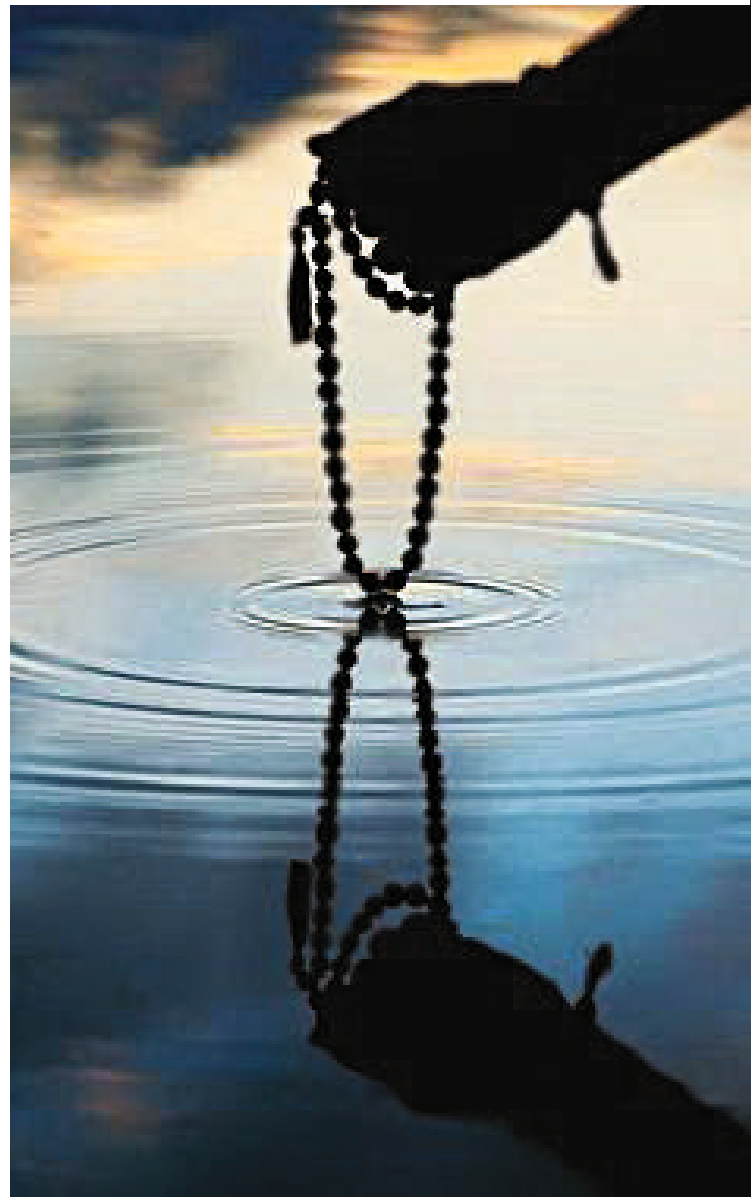
Pranvallabh, who was a real devotee, got the power to come back into the body. It was made possible due to his spiritual merits. Even after coming back into the body he did not wait to enjoy material objects but he waited there to communicate the message about the benefit of singing Dhun by clapping both hands.



There were and there are Social and moral reformers and amongst them are Avatars, saints, gurus and avdhutas. Avatar cannot be compared or equated with others as Avatar is the creator of the universe which contains humans, animals, air, water, light, sun, deserts, greeneries and darkness so on and so forth. He governs the universe with the law and principles of nature. He creates everything in perfections and unpolluted, He is unseen and unfelt but unfailing force. He creates eternity in form of time, time past and to come. He created time which though running fast but never ends. He has created life subsisting on vaporised breath, and the death happens by non-supply of breath. He created sun for energy and light and stars to awake the spirit of the darkness of the sky, and also to prove that darkness could also glitter. He has not to endeavor to create. He has only to wish to create.

Lord Ram and Krishna were Avatars. They in different ages adorned the human form for the purpose to defeat evils, immorality, sins and other atrocities and to re-establish the virtues, to save and protect nobles, and for the extinctions of villains.

Lord Krishna had promised during His Krishna Avatar proclaimed to incarnate in every ages to preserve and protect virtues and to re-establish Dharma, in chapter 4 adhyay 7 of our holi book Gita. His incarnation in human form is dependent on how and when there is decay of righteousness and rise in unrighteousness. He played several rolls in form of human being. A naughty child, a wrestler, platonic lover, musician, charioteer, great politician and protector of women's honour



HINDU *tradition*

(Draupadi), Bhagwan Krishna to wipe out the ignorance of Arjun in the midst of hustle-bustle, tremendous noise of trumpets and drums, whistle like high pitched sound made by the massive elephants and horses, with tremendous control over mind and intellect serve the knowledge of Karma and its reactions, death and rebirth, sufferings, enjoyment, vices and virtues and the most

important about the religion, attached to the duty in the form of Gita the ultimate knowledge which is relevant from ages, and will remain relevant till this human race exists. It is a guide of the eternal truth for human beings. Krishna highlighted the theory of Karma which says that whatever is done or committed will react, rebound back to the doer that means that you reap what you sow. The same theory was reiterated by the scientist Newton as his invention. The same theory of Karma which says that action and reaction are equal and opposite. This was said by Lord Krishna the scientist ages back that whatever karma you do will come back to you in equal proportion.

Lord Ram was a born prince. He had taken the human form to destroy evils, like Ravan and his vices. Very serious noble, divine and solemn character befitting to the God the Avatar. Preacher and practitioner of very high morality and virtues. He taught to honour the parents and subject and their wishes to establish virtues, morality and Dharma. He had eliminated many demons and the most cruel king of Lanka, The Ravan. He established Dharma Rajya known as Ramrajya. Ram was known for His character and virtues, hence was also known as Maryada Purushottam. People all over the world still wish that they be ruled like Ram Rajya.

Avdhuts and saints are very near to the God. In their presence, one could feel fragrance of divinity. I will not call them agents of the God as the term agent sounds business like, and they are far away from any business or agency. Avdhut and saints are powerful religious and moral souls, and

always remain completely absorbed and identified with the soul within. They live by high thinking, simple living with moderate requirements, keep away from lust and luxuries etc. In olden times the Saints and Gurus like Vishwamitra, Sandipani and others alike were residing in lonely jungle line areas along with their disciples with only things required to subsist.

Avatar is creator, while the saints, Avdhuts and gurus are creatures, hence there should not be any comparison between the unequal.

Human race is ages old. Avatar, saints and Avdhuts preached and taught, values and virtues since ages. The human beings were little higher in moral virtues in old times, than at present. In modern age the values and virtues could be seen but as an expectation. Avatar, Saints, sages and gurus, must have come and gone serving the human race with the values and virtues to live like human beings. The knowledge and wisdom imparted by the wise persons and sages could also change nature of human beings.

What is the hierarchical difference between an avatar, an ascended master and a saint? Are they moving in separate ways to get to a path, or is one above the other? How do they function?

Avatars happen based only on collective consciousness. They don't make the choice of their birth. It is when a generation or a few generations crave intensely for redemption that an avatar happens. They descend for a specific duration and for a purpose or duty, then achieve that purpose and dissolve.



inspiration

the inner BEAUTY

loyalty

truth

COVID 19

I just read this a very beautiful story and thought of sharing with you all.

Once Krishna and Balram were walking through a dense forest. It was a scary forest full of fierce animals and demons. Suddenly a demon came before them. Balram was petrified seeing a demon and asked fearfully, "Who are you?" The demon answered, "I am a demon the size of your fear." Hearing this Balram was even more scared and the demon grew bigger. The bigger he grew the more scared Balram was. Seeing him grow Balram fainted. Then demon turned his attention to Krishna. He said, "I am demon the size of your fear."

Krishna looked at him nonchalantly and started playing

his flute. The demon grew smaller and smaller till he disappeared. When Balram got up he was surprised to see this and he realised his mistake.

We live in scary times today and we need to let our faith win over fears we have in our mind. Let's make a conscious effort to have our faith in good things in life.

- 1) Meditate and keep calm- Your positive energies can make your immunity higher.
- 2) Relax- Listen to good music, dance or do whatever that makes you happy.
- 3) Hear, say and listen to good things. There is a world beyond COVID19.
- 4) Spend time (Now on phone, any other medium) with people who uplift you instead of those who bring you down.
- 5) Stay safe but be kind and loving too..people need healing and love in such times.

Let's remember that faith conquers fear anytime and anyday.

~~DO NOT~~ ~~QUIT~~

GET MOTIVATED!

is there a GOD ?

A customer walks into a salon.

Customer : Hey, Good Morning!

Barber : Good morning!

Customer : How are you?

Barber : Good Good! What are you doing today? Same as always?

Customer : Yes, same as always, or similar to yours.

Barber : Excellent. How's the family, work?

Customer : Everything is great, Thank God!

Barber : (Hearing the name of God, pauses for a moment, then continues) Very well, very well. We are ready. Just a little bit of cleaning and you will be fine. (He then shares his opinion about the existence of God.) Do you know something? I don't believe that God exists.

Customer : Why do you say that my friend?

Barber : It is very easy. When we look at society, there we realize that God does not exist. And if God really exists, then tell me why are there so many people being hurt? Why are there so many kids abandoned? Sick people? No my friend, if God would exist, there wouldn't be

suffering. There wouldn't be so much pain in the world. I can't understand how if there is a God, He allows all these things to happen.

Customer : Well, until next time...

Barber : Have a nice day Mr. Luis!

The man walks out of the salon and he sees a person with long hair and the idea instantly strikes in his mind. He walks back into the salon.

Customer : Do you know something? Barbers do not exist.

Barber : Oh! Then what am I?

Customer : Barbers do not exist, because if they would exist, there wouldn't be people with such long hair as this man has.

Barber : Barbers do exist. The problem is that these people don't come to us.

Customer : Exactly! That is the point! God exists; the problem is that people don't go to Him. That is why my friend, there is so much pain and misery in this world !

જનમ્યા કૌશલ દેશ વેશ બટુનો, લઈ તીર્થમાંહી ફર્યા;
Janamya Kaushal desh vesh batuno, Lai tirth mahi farya;
After being born in Kaushal region (UP), He toured through many
pilgrim spots in the form of a celibate (ascetic).

રામાનંદ મળ્યા સ્વધર્મ ચલવ્યો, યજ્ઞાદિ મોટા કર્યા.
Ramanand malya Swadharma chalavyo, Yajnadi mota karya.
After meeting Ramanand Swami, He initiated the sacred religion and
performed a host of outstanding Yajnas.

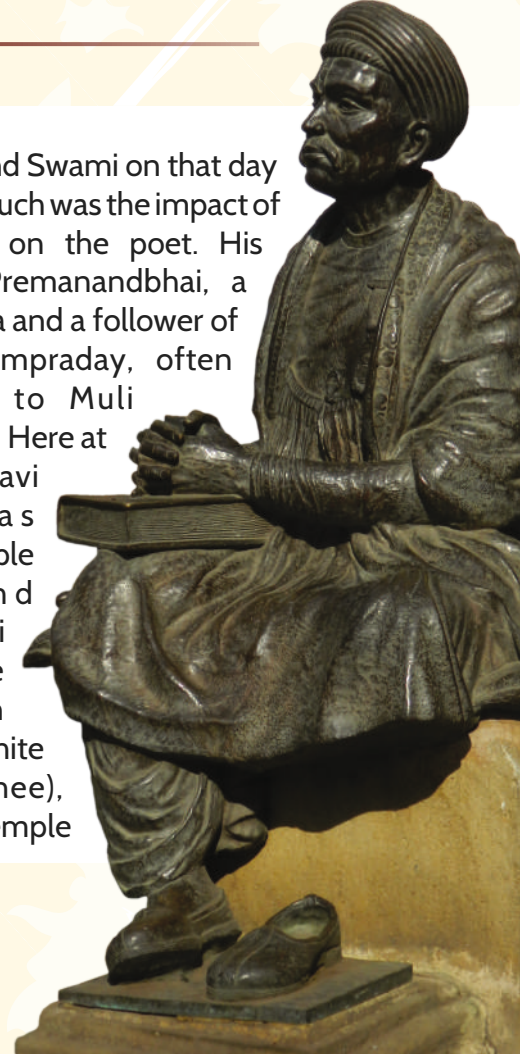
મોટાં ધામ રચ્યાં રહ્યા ગઢપુરે, બે દેશ ગાદી કરી;
Mota dham rachya rahya Gadhpure, be desh gadi kari;
After establishing many sacred temples, He preferred to stay at Gadhpur
and established Vadatal and Amdavad dioces as two religious thrones.

અંતર્ધાન થયા લીલા હરિ તણી, સંક્ષિપ્તમાં ઉચ્ચરી.
Antardhan thaya leela Hari tani, sankshipta ma uchhari.
And He departed for His divine abode! Thus I described the divine
sports of Shari Hari in brief.

————— Kavi Dalpatram - Hari Lilamrut —————

The Swaminarayaniy Poet. Kavi Dalpatram Dahyabhai Travadi. (1820-2020). Bi-centenary Tribute. I have been listening to these lines since my childhood : Janmya Kaushal desh. But a few years ago I came to know that these memorable lines were penned down by Kavi Dalpatram Dahyabhai Travadi. These few lines depict the life story of Sahjanand Swami, perhaps the shortest and finest life-sketch of Sahjanand Swami ever drawn by anybody. Kavi Dalpatram Dahyabhai Travadi, the great Gujarati poet, is basically a true Swaminarayaniy Poet and lived a life as a Swaminarayaniy aashrit. Kavi Dalpatram saw Sahjanand Swami at Gadhada when he was only 8 years old. He remembered the words

spoken by Sahjanand Swami on that day throughout his life; such was the impact of Sahjanand Swami on the poet. His maternal uncle, Premanandbhai, a resident of Gadhada and a follower of Swaminarayan Sampraday, often took Dalpatram to Muli temple for Darshan. Here at the age of 14 Kavi Dalpatram was initiated as a disciple by Bhumanand Swami. Kavi Dalpatram became a Parshad (an initiated one in white clothes, the trainee), stayed at Muli temple



Kavi Dalpatram

Prof. Harendra P. Bhatt

and learnt poetics from Devanand Swami, a Charan by caste and a poet of the Swaminarayan Sampraday. Devanand Swami taught him 'Chhand Shrungar' and 'Bhashabhusan'. Here Dalpatram started writing poems about the festivals celebrated at the temple. Swami Vaishnavanandji, a saint of the temple who had studied the poetics at Bhuj Pathshala, finding the literary traits in Dalpatram provided him two important books - Manmanjari and Anekarthi and helped him to know his subject. Dalpatram got a real boost when the then Acharya of the northern diocese of the Swaminarayan Sampraday designated Swami Vaishnavanandji and Dalpatram as the poets of the Sampraday. Acharyashri Ayodhyaprasadj Maharaj, after some time, invited Dalpatram at Amdavad and provided him all facility for further study, particularly Sanskrit language. Here Dalpatram learnt prosody from Yoganand Swami, a scholar of the Sampraday. Kavi Dalpatram wrote the first book - Chhapaiya Mahatmay here, staying at Amdavad temple. Kavi Dalpatram lived a life following the principles of Sahjanand Swami and depicted them in his

writing. Acharyashri Viharilalji Maharajshri of the Vadtal diocese of the Swaminarayan Sampraday and the Thakor Saheb of Lodhika state Abhesinji, in collaboration of Kavi Dalpatram, created few literary gems of the Swaminarayan Sampraday. At Lodhika, Kavi Dalpatram completed 'Purushottam Charitra', a life - sketch of Sahjanand Swami started by Kaviraj Bhimjibhai of Jamnagar. Here Kavi Dalpatram also edited the poems of Brahmanand Swami - Chhand Ratnavali. Thakor Abhesinji published both the books. Acharyashri Viharilalji Maharajshri invited Kavi at Vadtal and provided all resources to write "Shree Harililamrut", a long poem in four volumes providing biographical details of life and work of Sahjanand Swami. Kavi Dalpatram also wrote a study in poetics - Alankardarsh. Both the books are published by the Vadtal temple. Kavi Dalpatram is known for his pioneering literary services in the field of Gujarati literature. His Swaminarayani literary creations are the result of his faith. His firm faith in Lord Swaminarayan is remembered even today and his literary creations still guide those who study Swaminarayan Sampraday and Sahjanand

જે ઉત્પત્તિ તથા સ્થિતિ લય કરે, વેદો સ્તુતિ ઉચ્ચરે;
Je utpatti tatha sthiti laya kare,
Vedo stuti uchhare;

જેનાં રોમ સુષ્કિદ્રમાં અણુ સમ, બ્રહ્માંડ કોટિ કરે.
Jena rom suchhidrama anu sama,
brahmand koti fare.

માયા કાળ રવિ શશી સુરગણો, આજ્ઞા ન લોપે ક્ષણ;
Maya Kaal Ravi Shashi soorgano,
Ajna na lope kshano;

એવા અક્ષરધામના અધિપતિ, શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ
Eva Akshardham na adhipati,
Shri Swaminarayan!

One who generates, operates and destroys the cosmos, and
Whose praise is uttered by the Vedas.

And crores of universes move like atoms in the tiny divine pores
of His body.

Maya (the enchanting aura), Kaal (process of Time), the Sun, the
Moon and the group of deities dare not disobey His commands
even for a moment!

Such majestic is Lord Swaminarayan, the Master of Akshardham,
the imperishable abode.

Kavi Dalpatram - Hari Lilamrut

Vachanamrut

The Nectar of Divine

VICTORY OVER DEATH

*Amar pati narnag asur sur,
sab Maya ke chera re;
Achal niket ek nahi payo,
tum bina Dharmkishora re.
Mera ek aashra tera re,
Dharmkuvar Ghanshyam.*

(Premanand Swami)

Indra, the lord of heaven, men, the serpents, demons and gods are all subservient to Maya. None has achieved a steady place, except you. O son of Dharma! O Ghanshyam, You are my only refuge.

The empire of Maya is spread all over the world. All beings, without exception are constantly gripped by the fear of death. But he who resorts to God, the omnipotent, becomes free from the fear of death, because God is above death. This is why when a person is initiated with five fundamental vows (Pancha Vrataman), he declares:

*Kaal maya paapkarma,
yamadut bhayadaham;
Shri Krushnadev sharnam,
prapannoasmi sa patu mam.*

I have come to the refuge of Shree Krishnadev (God Supreme) because He makes free the devotee from the fear of Death, Maya, sins and the agents of god of death (Yamaduta). May He protect me.

Four types of devotees rise above the fear of death. They are : [1] Devotees with faith in God. [2] Devotees with knowledge about God. [3] Devotees who are brave. [4]

Devotees with absolute and unconditional love for God. All these four types of devotees attain beatitude in this very life. (Vachanamrut Loya - 2).

FAITH

Faith is the first essential characteristic of a devotee. He who has faith has the strength of firm conviction about God. He firmly believes that he would ascend to the abode of God even if he gives up the body while talking or walking, or even when he is devoured by a tiger or a lion. He says to himself: 'I have been with God in person. So, my ambition is fulfilled.' With such firm conviction he leads his life.

Kala Bhagat of Kundaal (North Gujarat) was a devotee who belonged to this category. The jealous members of his family misappropriated his land but Kala Bhagat had unflinching faith in Shreeji Maharaj. He approached the rural judicial committee for justice but this judicial committee had lost the divine voice for pronouncing right judgement. The jealous members of the family of Kala Bhagat had bribed this judicial committee. The judicial committee delivered judgement: 'You will be declared rightful owner of that much land, on which you can walk while holding a red-hot iron-ball before the public.'

The judgement given by the judicial committee was final and binding to the complainant and the defendant. Who would wait for an invitation to such a show? So all the villagers gathered in a field outside the village. In the fire of the furnace an iron-ball was made red-hot. The jealous members of the family of Kala Bhagat twittered: 'Let us now see what happens to this so called great devotee of God!'

The red-hot-iron-ball was glowing like the rising sun. Seeing this Kala Bhagat

earnestly prayed to God : “O dear one, You are my only saviour. Forget me not at this critical juncture.” Responding to his earnest prayer, God appeared in this mind and said : “O dear one, be fearless and hold the red-hot iron-ball with both the hands. Your hands won't burn!”

The crowd heard words descending from the sky : 'Kala Bhagat, lift the red hot iron-ball.' And Kala Bhagat lifted the redhot iron-ball while smiling at the crowd. With red-hot iron-ball in his hand Kala Bhagat walked on the land which rightly belonged to him. Thus he recovered his land by following the judgement of the judicial committee.

Let us go deeper into this incident. All know what would happen if a person lifts a

red-hot iron-ball. But Kala Bhagat had adamant faith in God and he strongly felt that all would be well with him as he had met God in person. He had already been with God who is the ultimate goal of life. So he was above the fear of death and lifted the red-hot iron-ball. His rock like faith brought God there. This incident is presented by Swami Nishkulanand in his poetic composition – Bhakta Chintamani (Ch.137). The descendants of kala Bhagat are still alive and the iron ball is still preserved at Swaminarayan Museum - Amdavad with care!

Therefore, if one has firm faith in God, one would be free from the fear of death.



To trust God
in the light is noting
but trust Him in the dark.
That is Faith.



My Faith
does not rest
in the wisdom of men,
but in the power of God.





Prof. Harendra P. Bhatt

The genius of Sahjanand Swami was not confined to the rigid re-establishment of Hindu worship in virgin integrity; it was also directed against the irregularities of the age and to the recovery of thousands of those unfortunate men to be found throughout Gujarat whose means of subsistence hitherto were equally lawless and precarious. Of his success in this latter respect, there is abundant testimony from the vast hordes who have been reclaimed to honest and industrious pursuits, while the present undisturbed state of the country compared with its condition previously will speak volumes for him who, at least in this respect, justly earns the appellation of Reformer, apart from those reasons which may be urged of the presence of an equitable British Government and the existence of a moral dread effecting much in this way. The wide latitude, too, which his doctrines comprise - permitting men of all classes to live upto them so long as they are faithfully observed - has materially tended towards Koollees, Kathis, Grassias, Rajputs, and a vast variety of other castes and classes of men rallying under his banner.

In the midst of these philanthropic exertions, while his very name was the guerdon of worth in the length and breadth of the province, surrounded by his friends, his family and his followers, and supported by the learner of those who were his constant companions, he digested and published his Code of Instructions. Sahjanand's subsequent life was one of undisturbed pursuit in the

furtherance of his cause, occasionally traveling through different parts of the country where any large collection of his disciples resided, To instruct and exhort and support them by his personal presence.

(Cities of Guzarastra)

Henry George Briggs

AKHANDdhun



Akhand Dhun, the second one of the Navadha Bhakti, started on 30 October, 2006 on the auspicious ceremony of Shree Harikrishna Mahotsav - 1. The location for the dhun was a small room on the ground floor of Rampratapbhai's bungalow. A pious devotee Shree Ghanshyambhai Shivabhai Patel of Khandhali village, in the memory of Aksharnivasi Sadguru Pujya Krishnajeewandasji Athanavala Swami, gave donation for a separate building for Dhun and residential facility for the participants. On 1 Nov., 2017 H. H. Acharyashree Rakeshprasadji Maharaj inaugurated the Dhun Bhuvan, located between Brahmanand Swami Dwar and the main gate of the temple. The Akhand dhun concept, has now been looked after very well by the Vadtal temple board. The Vadtal temple provides free of charge transportation and lodging boarding facility to the participants. The participants feel the utmost pleasure and the grace of Lord Swaminarayan at the end of the dhun and pray to Lord Swaminarayan to bless them for another opportunity. As per the records, around one lac seventy thousand devotees from 170 villages have participated in the Akhand dhun by now. More and more devotees from far and wide participate and pray to Lord Swaminarayan is the only goal of this worship. The end result is that a wide spread awareness is prevalent among the Holy Fellowship.

Input by **Balubhai Patrakar**

પંથ પીડાનો

સ્વસ્થ છું...
આમ તો હું સ્વસ્થ છું.
આપ સહુની જેમ...
રોગનું એકેય લક્ષણ ...
આમ તો એકે નથી ...
જે છે તે કેવળ :
મનમાં - દહેશતમાં - અને હા, કલ્પનામાં ...

સ્વસ્થ છું
પણ તોય અંદરથી સતત પડઘાય છે
ચીસો ... અજંપો ...
યાતના વેઠી રહેલાં સહુ સ્વજનના
આર્તનાદો ...

કેટલાં આંસુને ખરતાં સાંભળું છું!
મૃત્યુને તો મિત્ર ગણવાનું કહ્યું છે ...
ને જીવન પોતે જ
ત્યાં લઈ જાય છે સહુને, અરે પણ
જીવનને ને જીવને કેવો મળ્યો આ પંથ પીડાનો!

છતાં હું સ્વસ્થ છું ...
ને સાંભળું છું - જોઉં છું
હલચલ બધી આ વિશ્વની.
યુદ્ધ આ ક્યાં છે મહાભારતનું -
ને હું પણ નથી ધ્રુતરાષ્ટ્ર તોયે
કેટલા સંજય અહીં અહેવાલ આપ્યે જાય છે
આ યુદ્ધનો - મહામારીનો!

હું સ્વસ્થ છું -
એક કેવળ એક સંકટ છે જીવાણું
ને બીજું સંકટ - મહા સંકટ
તે આ છે 'જીવવાનું ...'
તોય સહુની જેમ એવો ભ્રમ તો છે કે
સ્વસ્થ છું!

- માધવ રામાનુજ

THE PATH OF PAIN

I am healthy...
As such I am healthy
like everyone else...
Not even a single symptom,
As such there is none...
What is at present is
fear in the mind and yes
it is only in my imagination and in fright...

I am healthy
But still from within there are echoes of
screams and restlessness;
The inner voice of the ones going through
distress, the kith and kin (loved ones)
I listen to so many tears falling;

It's been told to consider
Death as one's friend
and that life itself takes us near death;
Yet how come life and soul attained
this path of pain?

Still I am healthy...
And I listen to and see
the movements of entire world.
And this is not the war of Mahabharat!
And I am neither Dhritrashtra, yet many
Sanjay (Dhritrashtra's charioteer having
tele vision) keeps on giving me so many
incidences of this war, of this pandemic!

I am healthy!
There is only one difficulty,
that of the bacteria,
and another is the greater difficulty
Which is 'to live';
Still I am under the illusion like others that
'I am healthy.'

- Translation Tulsi Vakil

In Vadtal temple, the small as well as big idols consecrated in the interior side of the temple dome are not just for decoration but they are living embodiments of dazzling past symbols and are worth for close Darshan and worship, Here is an episode related with it.

Construction work of Vadtal temple was in progress. At that time on the Northern end of the eastern (Roop choki) dais Hiraji Salat (sculpture) was carving the idol of Hanumanji and God was pleased to observe it and offered him a garland as His kind favour. At this time, Brahmanand Swami, came there and reported that Hira Salat had prepared the idols having lovely form, figure and gestures and are meant for putting around in the

AT THE GRACE OF GOD, INANIMATE IDOLS, TOO, BEGAN TO DANCE !

interior of the dome, These idols are holding various musical instruments in their hands. Shri Hari felt very happy to see them and said, "What a nice sculpture! Only living cell is lacking in them. If these were alive, there would remain no difference between them and the real idols created by the creator. Brahmanand Swami said, "Yes, what You say is very true. If any God comes here He will fill these idols with life because if God can fondle the idol of blood and flesh why can't He put life in the idols of stone? After listening to the implied suggestion of Brahmanand Swami, Lord Swaminarayan touched the inanimate idols with the cane stick in His hand, all the idols began to dance with the rhyme and rhythmic music generated from the

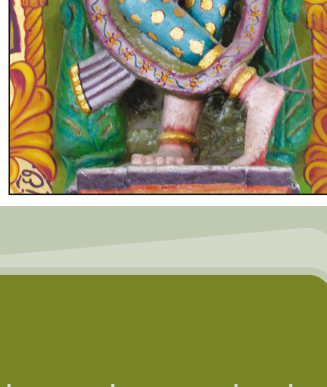
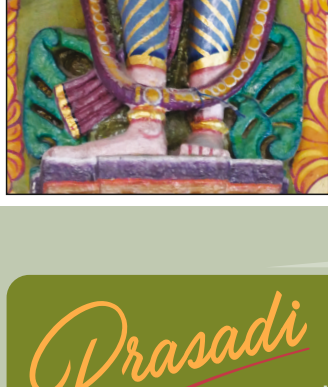
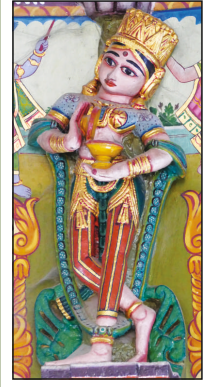
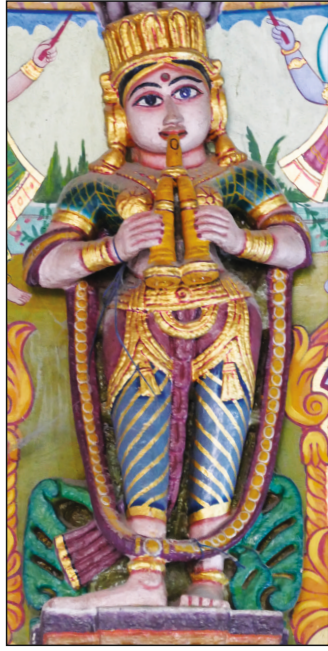
instruments held by them. This miracle threw the spectators into deep wonder who were present there.. That cane stick used by Lord Shri Hari for touching the idols, have been kept in the upstairs of the Akshar Bhuvan of Vadtal temple.

O Hari! Your sports are boundless and your greatness is timeless. Well this is the abode Vadtal where inanimate idols, too, began to dance with the sound of music. Who can grasp the secret of the sports of the Master of limitless universes? For this reason the prowess of the Lord is being sung in the



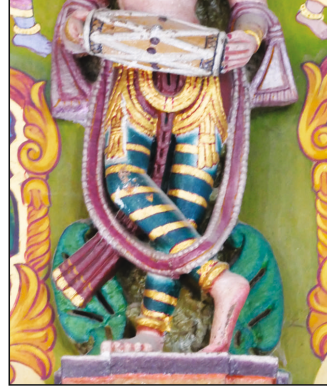
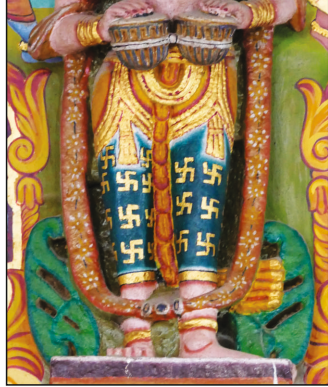
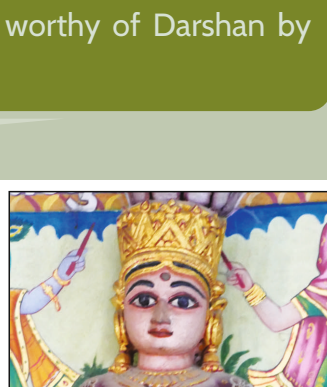
world.. If God desires He can bring life into inanimate things and change them into animate beings. The suggestion of Brahmanand Swami did not come to test the competence but it was meant to check the difference between inanimate and the animate things and at the hint of His implied suggestion Shri Hari pointed the cane at them and the 18 idols set on the dome began to dance! This incident was unforgettable and it has been pointed on the pages of the history of Sampraday.

This is the highest proof of the divine



Prasadi

Look here, observe closely
these are the same idols which had been
animated and made worthy of Darshan by
Lord Swaminarayan.





Celebration of Holi Festival at Vadatal