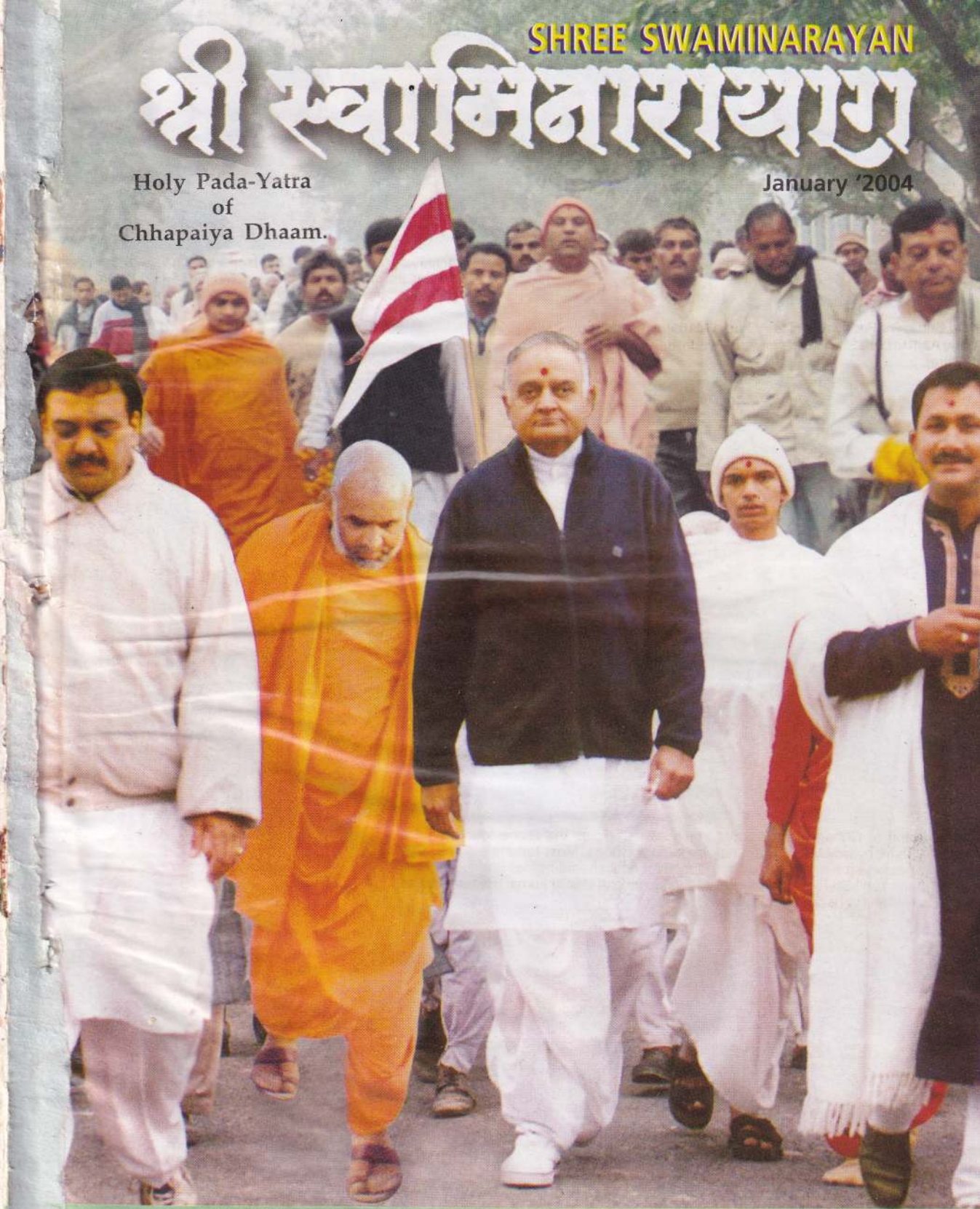
SHREE SWAMINARAYAN

श्री स्वामिनारायण

Holy Pada-Yatra
of
Chhapaiya Dhaam.

January '2004



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rior to Chhapiya Padayatra, H.H.Acharya Maharajshri presents early orning Aarti to Lord Shri Hari dwelling in Ayodhya-Dhaam (Chhapaiya-adayatra)



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and his blessed retinue with the pilgrim-devotees at the doors of Chhapaiya Temple. S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Temple) accompanies the pilgrims.



e Sacred land of Chhapaiya treasures in it's earthparticles the divine touch of Lord swaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj and has become a Shrine. Most fortunate Chhapaiya aam, receives again the blissful touch of the sixth descendant heir of Shri Hari - H.H. arya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri. Shri Manishkumar (maternal uncle hri Bal Lalji Maharaj) accompanies His Holiness.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents Aarti to Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj at our Limbadi temple.



Mahant Swami Harisevadasji receives blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at the Parayan sessions held at

SHRI SWAMINARAYAN

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: FOUNDER :
H. H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri
Tejendraprasadji Maharaj
Phone : (Temple) 2133835
(Res.) 7478070. Fax : 7452145.

CONTENTS

1. Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Respected Shri Lalji Maharajshri 2
2. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri of Lord Narnarayandev Dioces leads a Majestic Pada-Yatra (religious walk) (AYODHYA to CHHAPAIYA DHAAM) 4
3. Great are the ways of the great 5
4. Draw Your Balance Sheet 6
5. God is in proximity if we remove 'I' 7
6. Death during prime youth 9
7. A Matchless Friendship 11
8. Who is our Father ? 12
9. Hanuman lost the Challenge 14
10. News and Notes 17

CONTROLLING EDITORS & PUBLISHERS

Shastri Swami Nirgundasji
MAHANT
SHRI SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE
KALUPUR, AHMEDABAD-380 001.
PHONE : 2132170, KARBHARI : 2121515.

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EDITORIAL

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan orders in Shikshapatri: "व्यर्थकालो न नेतव्यो भगवतो भक्ति विता" (Devotees shall not waste time in idleness). Work is a precondition for sustenance on earth. As a householder, one is required to earn one's livelihood and sustain his family. One works constantly - continuously - without any break. But when some free time is found, one should utilise each of such free moments in the devotion of God. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri preaches this principle through his own life style. The world is learning from him. His graced presence in the early morning Dhanurmaas Dhoon refreshes and illuminates our memory of Shri Hari's divine life. He favours worldwide satsang by leading a magnificent religious walk from Ayodhya to help the pilgrims to do darshan of Shri Hari dwelling in Chhapaiya dhaam. The soul qualifies itself for single-minded devotion when it merges itself in such devotional feelings.

- Shastri Swami Nirgundas
Editor
Shri Swaminarayan.



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

December-2003

2. Blessed the marriage ceremony at the place of devotee Shri Dilipbhai Bhavsar, Naranpura. Ahmedabad.
   Graced Maha Pooja rituals at the place of Shri Purshottambhai C. Patel (Khambhatwala), Satellite.
   Graced the house of Shri Dhirubhai Bhulabhai Patel, Saraspur, Ahmedabad.
   Graced inauguration ceremony of the `Blue World' (Shri Mukeshbhai A. Patel) Satellite, Ahmedabad.
3. Graced installation ceremony at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Jetpur (Machhu)
4. Graced inauguration ceremony of `Paras Automobiles' (Shri Prakashbhai Rambhai Patel), Gandhinagar.
   Graced the residency of Shri Baldevbhai D. Soni, Satellite, Ahmedabad.
5. Graced installation ceremony at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Ishwarnagar (Teh. Malia-Muli region).
   Graced Marriage ceremony held at the place of Shri Vasantbhai T. Tank, Paldi, Ahmedabad.
   Graced inauguration ceremony of 'Gharena Gold Palace' (Shri Prahladbhai K. Patel), Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad.
   Graced 'Shriji Anaj Bhandar' (Shri Amritlal Patel of Ajarapur), Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad.
   Graced and blessed the marriage ceremony held at the place of Shri Jasubhai V. Soni, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.

6-7. Graced foundation laying ceremony of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kalupur (U.P.)

8. Graced marriage ceremony at the residence of Shri Kaushikbhai J. Patel (Revenue Minister), Shahibaugh, Ahmedabad.
9. Graced installation ceremony held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Jasapar (Dhrangadhra).
   Graced the place of Shri Subhashbhai M. Patel, Ghodasar, Ahmedabad.
10. Graced the place of Shri Kalpeshbhai A. Choksi, Manekchowk, Ahmedabad.
11. Graced concluding ceremony of Bhagwat Parayan held at the place of Shri Baldevbhai S. Patel, Mokhasan.
12. Graced concluding ceremony of Parayan Katha held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Laloda and in return journey graced the house of a devotee at Himatnagar.

13-15. Graced concluding ceremony of Parayan Katha held at Surendranagar Temple and from there graced the Kutch region to visit our temple at Bhuj and Mirjapur, Kutch.

16. Graced Parayan Katha held at Vadnagar Temple.

17. Graced concluding ceremony of Parayan Katha held at the place of Shri Gulabbhai Chaudhari, Ishwarpura (Laloda).
18. Graced Bhagwat Parayan sessions held at the place of Shri Ramjibhai Haribhai Gohel. Kholadiad, Tehl : Wadhwan.
19. Graced Patotsava ceremony of Sardhav Temple, Gandhinagar.
21. Graced Shakotsava ceremony at Dhamasana Temple.
    Graced the house of Shri Bhikhabhai A. Patel, Kotha.
    Graced marriage ceremony held at the place of Shri Sureshbhai V. Patel, S.G. Highway.
28. Graced Silver Jubilee Festivities of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Sector : 23)



Appointment Diary of Future Acharya Respected Shri Lalji Maharajshri

December-2003

Held religious tour of U.S.A.

Platinum Jubilee Medical Camps

Following free medical camps have been organised at the various places to provide free medical consultation and medicines.

Date	Place	Servuces provided
14-12-2003	Vehlal Temple	Free Consultation and medicines for the
21-12-2003	Hathijan Gurukul	heart ailments lungs, diabetes, general medical
28-12-2003	Nikol Temple	treatment blood donation etc.

224 devotees have donated blood at the blood donation camp and a large number of devotees have been benefitted by consultation and medicines.

The camps were organised by Dr. Rameshbhai Parikh, Dr. Bhavinbhai Parikh, Savjibhai P. Talapada, Rajubai Padmani and Jitubhai Kadia. Swai Chaitanyadasji and doctors have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by conducting medical services in non-urban area.

- Dr. Bhavin Parikh

Service of Silver-ware for the Thaal of Lord Thakorji

Shri Parbatbhai Kurji Halaria, Smt. Amratben Parbatbhai Halaria and Anil-Dinesh Limbani have earned the pleasrue of Shri Hari by donating Rs. 1,30,000/- towards the silver ware for serving Thaal to Lord Narnarayandev. They have donated this service in the blessed memory of late devotee Manjulaben Dineshbhai Limbani.

Received with Thanks

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri had released the book "Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Saar." written by S.G. Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji.

The devotees are requested to collect the book from the Sahitya Kendra of the Temple.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri of Lord Narnarayandev Dioces leads a Majestic Pada-Yatra (religious walk) (AYODHYA to CHHAPAIYA DHAAM)

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan as and when made any benedictory resolute, he kept always with him the dependant devotees and materialised his resolute. He did so with an intention to benedict his devotees - small or big, rich or poor, lords or peasants - without any discrimination. This two century old history and the traditions founded by Shri Hari in the ancient past, have been maintained well by his discendant heir - H.H. Acharya Maharaj of Shri Narnarayandev dioces, to benedict his faithful dependants. Welfare of mankind and benediction of his devotees stood as life and mission for H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. All his resolutes and the acts fulfilling the resolutes are aimed at universal upliftment and all round progress of mankind.

A resolute was made earlier by His Holiness for a pilgrimage walk from the Ayodhya shrine to Chhapaiya Dhaam. The acts of compassion and mercy are not made public by His Holiness, and in accordance to it the resolute and the Padayatra plans were not made public to the villages, towns or cities.

H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri accompained by Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Temple), S.G. Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji Swami (Jetalpur), Mahant Swami Guruprasaddasji (Kankaria Temple) and Hajur Karbhari Sandipbhai Chokshi, graced Delhi by air amidst heavy fog and chilling cold. As the flight between Delhi - Lucknow was cancelled due to weather conditions, they came to Banaras by air and by cars came to Ayodhya. Comfortable hospitalities were provided at Ayodhya Temple with personal attention by the Mahant Swami. Holy pilgirmage became a miraculous event when H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the holy land of Ayodhya and weather conditions changed to normal to comfort the pilgrims. It was appeared that nature and destiny got their schedules changed in accordance to the orders from above. Chilling cold subsided and fog was diminished. Bright sun light filled the earth and space to give affectionate warmth to the Shri Hari's own son and his depandants who were on a holy walk from Ayodhya to do darshan of the Supreme Master - Shri Hari - at Chhapaiya Dham.

Holy walk was initiated at it's scheduled time early in morning. Cold wave and chilling cold was disappeared. Many saints and devotees preferred to remove their shawls and sweaters in sunshine and cosyness of the climate ! The pilgrim devotees were come in a large number from far flung places to avail this life time opportunity. Atmosphere was charged with devotion and devotional love. The devotees, followed the steps of their supreme preceptor, and touched repeatedly to their forehead the sacred earth particles sanctified by holy touch of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Atmosphere was filled by the rythmic sound of the chants of Shri Swaminarayan Maha Mantra. Thus the devout devotees came to the Makhoda Ghaat. Makohda Ghaat is the prasadi place where Shri Hari had displayed divine leelas with his childhood friends. Pilgrim devotees took there rest for some time and dwelt upon divine life of Shriji Maharaj. From Makhoda Ghaat, they came to the Shrine of Chhapaiya Dhaam and did darshan of Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri prayed to his great grandfather for the benediction of his dependant devotees and prayed eternal peace and prosperity for the mankind.

- Sadhu Dharmaprakashdas, Sadhu Radharamandas

Great are the ways of the great

Shastri Hari Swami

A baby child who was learning to walk, went on his knees in the corridor of the house. The soft rays of the sun were brightening the broad corridor of the house. The child found his shadow moving ahead of him. These movements initially amused the child and he Gawled faster to catch it, and repeatedly tried to catch the head of the shadow, but failed to do so. The cry is the strength of a child. The child cried and screamed while chasing the head of the shadow, and at each failure, he cried more. The mother was observing the efforts of her child. She came hurriedly, gently held his hand and kept it on the head of the child. As she did so, the shadow too kept the hand on the head. The child was happy now ! The head he had chased for a long time finally held very easily in the hand. He stopped crying and laughed freely with pleasure.

Like this child, ignorant people try to catch the shadows - unreal and imaginary things and become unhappy when they fail to catch hold of it. Their miseries and pains automatically end if they stop chasing unreal and try afresh to catch hold of the root the source. To discipline your thought process and mind, catch hold of its root and basic source.

How do the great ones act ?

It was summer time. The King, escorted by his attendants, was seated on a bench under a mango tree near a fountain in his royal orchard. He was lazily enjoying the cool breeze and fragrance of the ripening mangoes. The orchard was well-protected by a strong wall and a huge gate. There was no room to sneak in. No outsider was able to look in the orchard while passing by the way.

Some travellers were passing by the wall. They saw tree tops and bunches of the ripened mangoes hanging temptingly. The travellers were hungry. They could not resist the intoxicating temptation of fresh ripe and flavoured mangoes. They took up stones in their hands and threw them at the bunches of mangoes. Two mangoes fell due to that stone, but the stone rebounding from the branch, fell on the head of the king. The royal guards swiftly rushed and arrested the travellers. They brought them in front of the King. The king asked them, `Why did you throw the stone ?' `Sir ! We are poor travellers and our village is far away from this place. We were hungry, therefore we threw the stone when we saw these mangoes. We have not done it in any enmity. We did it due to hunger." The King was kind hearted and generous. He asked, `What did you get by throwing the stone at the mango tree ?' `Sir ! Two mangoes' they submitted politely. The King then said `If an inert tree gives two mangoes, on throwing a stone at it, then how can a conscious one like me not give you any thing ?' And the king then ordered his personal attendants to arrange meals and funds for the travellers. Sandal wood, though rubbed ruthlessly, emanates a soothing fragrance. Sugar cane, though crushed between hard metal rolls, gives sweet juices. Similarly, the virtuous people, though suffering at the hands of people, spread happiness and pleasure in the world.

Draw Your Balance Sheet

Shastri H. G. Swami

It was a skyscraper, one hundred storied spacious apartment. Sky scaling height. Abode for one thousand families and thousands of people. Four elevators worked round the clock to take the habitants to their relevant destination up and down. The sky scraper was located in the city of Maya Nagari.

Once there came two friends. One among them was the host residing at the 80th floor of this tall building. He had come with his friends to show his apartment. Unfortunately the lifts were out of order. What to do ? Both worried as to how to reach the 80th floor ! Moreover, they were carrying some heavy luggage. The stair-way to the 80th floor was a long journey canal to scaling a mountain on foot ! But on the 80th floor was a cosy and comfortable apartment ready to give them pleasure, comfort and happiness !

Any Now, they with their bags, started climbing the stair way, passing floor-after-floor dragging their tired feet and reached the 20th floor. Both panted heavily and the luggage became an additional burden besides the burden of lifting their feet step after step. The fatigue of walking on the stairway had become unbearable and therefore after some consultation they decided to leave the luggage on the 20th floor. The onward journey up to the 40th floor became more tiresome due to the increasing height of the stairway. The tired two dropped their bodies on the step of the 40th floor. To walk further and climb one more step had become impossible for the fatigued visitor friend. He declared his incapability to climb further and desired to go back. Then the host friend tried his best to boost his courage ! He explained that half of the way had already been traversed and the comforts of the apartment were waiting for them. They should pull themselves together and should go ahead with enthusiasm. It was not practical to go back after reaching the first half of their destination. sme way or the other they continued to climb the steps by pulling and dragging their fatigue-loaded feet. Quarreling and arguing among themselves, they at last reached the 60th floor. But their lungs had become like a swollen bellow by constant panting and they were perspiring like a melting ice-block. Now the visiting friend was in no-mood to scale a step further. Both of them rested there at that place and then the host friend persuaded his hearty friend to walk a few steps further to scale the last quarter of the 80 storied stairway. Then clasping each other's hand, and climbing each step with great pain they reached the 80th floor - their final destination and heaved for a while. The host friend when he faced the door of the house, shuddered with unimaginable pain. The keys of the house had been left with the luggage on the 20th floor ! He searched his pockets helplessly but the keys were in the bag left on the twentieth floor. What to do now ? They stared at each other questioninggly. Both were repenting on their mountain like blunder.

The story is meaningful. The world is a Maya Nagari, and the hundred storied sky scraper stands for our life. Our life of one hundred years. Man goes on the onward journey of his life by leaving the key on the twentieth floor. Means at the age of twenty years - in his blossomed youth - he leaves and forsakes his ultimate aim and chases aimlessly the pleasures of the sense objects. This hasty and tiring run of life takes him to the eightieth floor - means - close to his death - the dead end of life. And at the last

(Con. Page No. 10)

God is in proximity if we remove 'I'

Shastri Swami Ghanshyamprakashdas

Though he was eager to help her why did Lord Krishna wait and delay to protect the honour of Draupadi ? There were several reasons for it. In the beginning, Draupadi relied more on the senior family head-Bhishmapitamaha-for such help, but was not supported. Then she depended on her five mighty husbands - the Pandavas - to protect her, but their affection and love were imprisoned by the vows and promises of dice-gambling. They too were helpless to do any thing for her. Then she, in a fit of anger and ego depended on her own self and tried to defend herself by pulling together her attire in her hands and fists. Lord Shri Krishna dwelling is her heart, though he was impatient to help her, looked eagerly in his witness state. He acted so, because the conflict was not only between Draupadi and Dushasana but was between a devotee and his ego, between an aspirant and his affection, between the consciousness and the eternal entity. Draupadi tried at the first instance for the social protection, then she tried and depended on love and affection, but could not resist the onslaught of eternal entity, by either of the means. Then at last she depended on her physical strength - the elemental force. But that too was not successful. The eternal entity Maya stood undefeated against the aspirant - the soul - the consciousness. Though God was in front of the devotee, these manfiestations of the eternal entity stood like a veil between God and God's devotee. The soul when it rejected all illusive supports and surrendered unconditionally the God for the help with a cry, `Oh Lord Krishna ! Oh Omniscient Lord ! Please help me.' Lord Shri Krishna protected her by unbroken and continuous supply of nine hundred ninety-nine sarees.

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan says in his Vachanamrit (Gadhada F.44) : To believe and to take the body as a form of the self - the soul is a sign of futile wisdom. One nay be called an enlightened scholar, worshipper, devotee or an aspirant of the ultimte knowledge, but all such claims shall be futile and worthless if one is egoistic about his physical being - the body. In Vachanamrit (Gadhada L.-12) it is said that there should be no pride or veneration in regard to ones lineage, clan, physical charms, wealth, virtuous attributes or knowledge. Because such pride or veneration acceleates the ego, and ego generates disliking towards fellow devotees and God. Such sinful acts consign the soul to an inert state of a tree or a hill or a hillock. Thus the soul descends from the higher plane of self-benediction.

Let us have an analytic look at the title of this essay - "God is in proximity, if one removes - I". `I' is treated in general as a symbol of pride. It is a strong concentration of pride, veneration, hypocrisy etc. One becomes ego-free when by penance, Yoga and by the Samkhya discipline he controls his ego. Such a devotee may be called Nirmani (ego-free). To do this, is not an easy job. But Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan has indicated to his devotees the occasions, when one was acting under the ill influence of ego. Lord Shri Hari intended by such examples, to repel the ego of his devotee. Shri Hari believed in total eradication of ego. In the first stage, he makes his devotee Nirmani (ego-free) and in the final stage he eradicates ego from the root and the branches. Such an egoless devotee feels the close proximity of his God.

Lord Shri Hari says in Vachanamrit (Loya-6) that the removal of a unique fault, removes all the faults of a man, and a unique virtue, if imbibed, brings in all the virtues. Such a major fault is "ego" and such a powerful virtue is spiritual enlightenment. Therefore, it is most important to control and eradicate the ego. There are many examples in this

Sampradaya, where ego had ruined the spiritual growth of the devotees and aspirants :

Lord Shri Hari says in his Vachanamrits (Gadhada : L-30) : Know the soul as a distinct entity from the body. Lack of such knowledge attracts repulsion towards the fellow saints and invites fall of the self when one is swept away by a powerful current of ego to indulge in the acts of veneration, anger, taste, greed, covetousness, wrath or envy. He creates disputes and quarrel among the fellow-saints in the hermitage, when they reside together.

There are many examples in this sect ,when a dependant follower receded in devotion and satsang due to his ego and lost touch with his God.

Alaiya Khachar of Jhinajhavadar did service of Shri Hari by bringing in two thousand aspirants in the benign fold of this Satsang. But though he, was not at all insulted and was honoured at the rank three of this sect by S.G. Muktanand Swami, felt he was insulted with such an honour, unsheathed his sword and tried to behead Muktanand Swami. Alaiya Khachar repelled the Satsang and became an opponent of the Sampradaya, when Shri Hari disciplined his anger and ego. The ego was so destructive that Alaiya lost his spiritual wisdom, became violent and broke the Kanthis of the four thousand satsangis to draw them out from this Satsang.

- Jiva Khachar - uncle of Dada Khachar - was driven by jealousy and envy against his nephew and in a spate of hate and anger he sent killers to behead Shri Hari. He opposed Shri Hari for the rest of his life.
- Faibaa of Machchhiav grudged for her daughter-in-law. Shri Hari himself tried at his best for a compromise between mother-in-law and daughter - in law. Instead of leaving ego and adamancy, Faiba opposed Shri Hari and left the benign fold of the sect.
- Feeling insulted by the saints, S.G. Chaitanyanand Swami walked away from the Satsang and Maharaj. In a later stage, when he overpowered his ego, he was called back in the Satsang by Shriji Maharaj himself.
- A saint walked out of the Satsang to earn name and fame of his own. Shri Hari tried to stop him by holding his hand, but he shook it off in anger. He caught leprosy for the rest of his life and died miserably as an opponent of God.
- State Secretary Naruvant of Baroda state used to be very harsh to the smaller devotees in the recovery of the state dues. He attracted displeasure of Gopalanand Swami and was banished forever from the Baroda State.
- A farmer Patel walked away from the Satsang when Gunatitanand told him once to first was his feet and then join Satsang when. Swami sent him a word of invitation, he sarcastically said, `I will come, when I have as warshed my feet !'
- In Vadtal Dham, when a saint was asked by Acharya Maharaj to move his seat some four inches a way, the saint found it insutte and went far away to Ahmedabad !
- Purnanand Swami was addressed by Shri Hari as a statue of ego, when he stood like a pole in the Sabha in search of a seat !
- The State Secretary of Bhuj-Sundarjee Diwan, was proud of his obedience and took sainthood very lightly Shri Hari removed his ego by conveating eighty noble householders into ascetics, and then rewarding back their householdership.
- Brahmanand Swami stopped saluting Muktanand Swami, as he doubted that his utensil was taken away by Muktanand Swami Shri Hari identified the attitude of Brahmanand Swami as animal instinct.
- Naradji did penance for a long period of seven Manatars, but God was not pleased with him, because of Narada's jealousy toward Timaru.
- As desired by Shri Hari, Nishkulanand Swami discarded his ego and worldly life.

Shri Hari blessed him with the eternal pleasure of living with his God - Shri Hari.

- Dada Khachar was tested rigorously by Shri Hari. But he disowned his ego and danced at the wish of his God. Omniscient Shri Hari dwelt in the house of Shri Dada Khachar and made Gadhada his official residence.

Lord Shri Hari says : He looks externally at his childhood, youth and old age; he looks at his charms or ugliness but as a soul he is not seeing his physical - elemental self. Such a soul is the lowest one, a foolish and mad man who lives in the darkness of ignorance if he considers his elemental self. (Gadhada:20)

He should accept these words as the ultimate truth and should live as a pure soul when a saint says to him that he is separate from mind and sense organs and is the pure knower. (Gadhada : F-16).

He should consider himself separate and distinct from the subtle, causal and elemental body. Should consider himself as pure consciousness and should do devotion of God by installing the idol in the consciousness. He should then see amidst the luminosity, his truest form separate from and beyond the three bodies. In such luminosity he will do darshan of the luminous image of God. (Gadhada : 23)

Shri Hari explains here the plane of seeing God face-to-face. Such an experience is called proximity of God.

If and when one believes the self to be pure consciousness, what shall be the birth place of such pure consciousness ? And who shall be the relatives of such consciousness ? And what shall be the caste of such soul-consciousness !!! (Gadhada : F-37)

Lord Shri Hari awakens his dependents from the slumber of ignorance and breaks their chains of desires and affections. Shri Hari enlightens them by such metaphysical voyages. He indirectly hints at the proximity of God.

Death during prime youth

Shastri H. J. Swami

Witeleus was the King of Germany. In his early youth he was compelled to hold the reins of the kingdom, but being a very intelligent man, he gave good administration to his subjects. People were happy in his regime. The kingdom prospered during his regime. People were safe, secure and happy in his kingdom. They loved and praised their king. Ministers and secretaries were obedient and faithful to the king. Army heads and the army was strong enough to destroy the enemies if they tried to invade the state. Neighbouring states were co-operating in a friendly way to the kingdom of Germany. Thus, king Witeleus was quite happy and most powerful, but he lost his own life due to his indisciplined sense organs.

He lost his life because of his tongue, his taste bud. He was not holding any control over his taste bud. If he found an eatable tasteful, he would consume it limitlessly and repeatedly. He was using his body like a pantry, to stock pile and dump through his mouth tasty eatables. He was a slave of tasteful eatables. And his craze of limitless eating, grew and multiplied on each following day. He never gave a thought to his body and never worried about his deteriorating health. In short, he was mad after tasty food.

Royal families have always plenty to eat and consume. Their chets are experts in cooking traditional, oriental and continental dishes. They know the recipe of thousands of eatables consumed worldwide in various countries. Here at the royal palace of Germany, the chet and the cooks were experts in preparing mouth watering dishes for the King ! The King was constantly desiring to have various dishes chosen from oriental and continental menu to satisfy his insatiable

up petite. Though he consumed thousands of varieies in an unbroken series of servings, throughout the day and round-the-year without any repetition, the king always complained about his dissatisfaction and repeatedly felt that he was not getting full satisfaction of breakfasts, snacks or meals ! He thought that his stomach was too small to house enough food. He thought how nice it would have been, if his stomach was not fully filled despite a large quantity of intake, and how nice it would have been if his stomach was to increase its capacity as per the quantity of intake time-and-again. In such circumstances he would have been able to consume more and in many varieties.

Now he was possessed by the mad idea of eating more. He then looked for the ways and means to eat more in an increased number of frequency. He sent his attendant to call Raj Vaidya (royal physician). After a thorough consultation the Raj Vaidya declared him fully fit. There was no physical problem. The King then said, `Oh Raj Vaidya ! You give me some medicine so that I can eat more as per my desire...' Raj Vaidya then said with a hidden smile, `Oh Great King ! There is no medicine on the earth to expand eating capacity to an infinity. Please think that although the eatables are not yours, yet the stomach is your own. Therefore be wise and thoughtful in consuming food. That is the proper and pleasurable life style.' But the king when he asked him repeatedly to find out some medicine to eat frequently, repeatedly and to his fullest satisfaction, the royal draud gave him an oral medicine and said, `You eat your choicest item stomach full. Relish satisfaction and then to eat more of it or to eat again, consume a dose of this special medicine. This medicine will induce you to vomit to empty your stomach. Once it is emptied, you will feel want of some more food. Eat again the same food or a new variety of your choice. Eat it to your satisfaction. Enjoy the mood of fulfillment and thereafter take the dose of medicine to vomit it out. You can repeat it at your choice and till you are fully satisfied.

The king liked the medicine and used it in great frequency. It adversely effected his health and he lost his life at a youthful age.

My friends ! See. If one loses control over one's tongue life becomes miserable despite a very strong hold on the world ! The people, mad after the taste, spoil their stomach, body and health by consuming the spicy eatables sold at the shops. They while spoiling physical health, spoil their mind too by surrendering to temptations and sense organs. We find many people these days following the steps of this German King. This story should act like a red signal to those friends. Remember, we don't live to eat, but we eat to live. If we remember this much, life will be a pleasurable life by consuming soul-satisfying meals of domestic kitchen. The mind will not be tempted to eat the stale and polluted stuff of the food joints.

Draw Your Balance Sheet

breath he remembers the key-the lost key. For what is this key ? It is the key of ultimate benediction ! Then at that juncture he can do nothing except repent. He has spent, perhaps spoiled, his life by carnal desires and sense objects. After a long journey of eighty years, he is stalled only there from where he began the journey of worldly pleasures ! This is why, Lord Shriji Maharaj has said, `Repeatedly reflect on the sum - total of the years of life - your age.' How nice would it be, if we reflect on the sum-total and balance sheet of the life in the beginning of this year!

A Matchless Friendship

Sadhu Bhaktavatsaldas

A leaf and a clod were good friends. The leaf resided on a tree and the clod lived beneath the tree.

Meanwhile, the season changed and the leaf fell down due to the autumn wind. It landed right near the clod and cried under the shock of sudden fall. It lamented on it's loneliness, 'Oh God ! I am all alone what will happen now ! Oh God! please save me.

The clod looked at the leaf and said 'My best friend! Why should you cry ? I am here to accompany you.' But as he said so, the stormy wind began to sweep the earth and the space. The leaf was trembling in fear. It cried again and said, 'Oh God! This storm will throw me away breaking my ribs and limbs who will save me !

But the clod consoled him with great love, 'Friend! Don't be afraid of the storm. I will hold you here. This wind can not take you away from me.' Saying so, the clod kept the leaf under its hold by sitting on the leaf. The stormy wind went away to give way to peace and tranquility The leaf was saved, It said to the clod,' Thank you.brother clod !'

As time passed, the friendship grew stronger between them. The seasons are in a rotating cycle. As time passed there was a change in the season - the summer ended, to give way to the raiy season. Thundering clouds and sparkling lightning filled the sky. The clod said to the leaf, while worriyng about the onslaught of thundering rain, 'Brother leaf ! Now bid me hearty departure.' 'Why ! Why all of a sudden !' asked the leaf. 'Brother! Look it is likely to rain and it will rain heavily. The rain drops will melt me in to liquid and the stream will swallow me. The rain will end my life-my existence,' said the clod with tearful eyes.

'I am here. I will save you. I will protect your existence' With these words he covered the body of the clod and saved him from the rain. The heavy rain passed away in the same speed. The uncovered land was washed away but the clod existed due to the protective cover of the leaf. Both the friends were small and weak but they saved each other's life through mutual help.

Dear devotees ! A friend in need is a friend indeed. One who stood by your side in adverse times, is your truest friend. The word 'friendship' is a broad term reflecting subtlest relationship between the souls It is sublime and majestic. It is distinct oneness between the souls. It is sacred and pure. Such unique oneness should exist this year in our heart in regard to our Acharya Maharajshri, saints and Sampradaya. Resolve firmly and finaly to dedicate youself solely at the lotus feet of Lord Naranarayandev and H.H.Acharya Maharajshri. participatate wholeheartedly in the events of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. May Shri Hari bless us with unshaten devotion at the lotus feet of Shri Sahajanand Swami.

Who is our Father ?

Atulbhai B. Pothiwala (N.Y.)

It is new year day. The child, in his new party dress and accompanied by his father, comes to the temple to do darshan of God. This is the beginning of the day and the beginning of a new year. Then together, they go to the houses of other relatives to receive blessings and good wishes from the elders.

In the first instance, they went to the house of the elder uncle. `My child ! This is your elder uncle - my elder brother. Salute him with respect and receive his blessings.' Child did so and received blessings with a handsome cash gift. Following their seniority in relations, they saluted uncle, maternal uncle and others at their respective houses. Everybody gave him money as a gift with hearty blessings. His pocket was bursting with the hard cash of crisp currency. But the child was not satisfied with such big money !

As soon as they came home, the child, who till now was holding the finger of his father, freed himself and ran to his mother. The child then cried in his mother's arms and said, `Mother ! I went to the houses of all our senior relatives - elderly relatives. All were father figures, grandpa, elder uncle, uncle, maternal uncle etc. But who among them is my father ? My real father.'

Mother explained to him, `My Son ! The one whose finger you held and who took you to all those places is your father. He is your dad.

We too are positioned like that innocent child : Who is our father ? Where are our roots ? We will have to know this with utmost clarity. One, whose finger we have held, and one who has shown us the path of ultimate benediction, and has promised to us take to Akshardham, He is our father. He is our father. Shri Hari is our father.

We have become a Satsangi and the Satsang is of ours. We read and recite Shikshapatri and everyday read the nectar like words of Vachanamrit. Now in one step forward we are required to be firm in our faith in Shri Hari Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Lord Swaminarayan is our father. Be firm in the faith and in this ultimate truth. Doubt has no room in faith. Submit and dedicate your self by heart and soul. There should not be any flaw in it. Lord Shri Hari shall be in proximity by such hearty efforts of ours. Failing which, as Shri Hari had said, `There shall be no relation between you and me.'

Someone is a closest friend of us. He is dearest to us. And in such fast friendship, suppose we come to know that that friend was the killer of our brother, then what will happen to the friendship ? Instead of a friendship, we will rush to kill him. A poet has said :

કડવા હોય લીમડા તોય શીતળ એની છાંય
બાંધવ હોય અબોલડા તોય પોતાની બાંય.

Shri Hari is our father. How can we tolerate any relation with a person who speaks bad about the Satsang of Shri Hari ?

Son knows that he is his father. He holds full faith and trust in his father. He believes that whatever he desired shall be given to him by his father. They love each other. Father shows love, affection and care for his son, and fulfills the wishes of his son.

Here, between father and son, exists a strong and unbroken bond of limitless faith. The son never disobeys any order of his father. The son, upto a certain age, lives a worry free life, but growth in age and education takes him to the responsibilities as a householder. He becomes self-dependent and depends less on his father. Thus, the physical dependence becomes lesser on the chronological growth of the son, but there is no recession in his belief that he is the son of his father and it stands firm forever. Attachement and love between them lasts forever.

Our father is great and majestic. He is omnipresent. Cosmos dwell in him like atoms. His illuminating fire kindles in temple lamps to brighten our personal and spiritual life. This heavenly elephant graces our huts, but our souls have not become spiritually strong due to weakness in faith. Sahajanand Swami is our God - our personal God - our father. How as an obedient son, would it be possible for us to disobey his orders and wishes ? We can not do so.

Lord Shriji Maharaj had most skillfully managed the life of Satsangi human beings. He had taught us the managing skills and management doctrines befitting everyone male, female, householders, saints, celibates - for all the limbs of human society. Teachings and preachings of Shri Hari need neither a guide nor a treatise. His teachings it self are the guide and a path to walk on. We are required to adhere to his words. Be a true Satsangi, be a truthful Satsangi, be an obedient and faithful dependent.

Those scriptures where divine life, leelas and episodes of Shri Hari have been narrated are the wealth of Satsang and the eternal source of inspiration. If differed in interpretation, it cannot effect a change in our father.

Lord Shri Hari says, `Believe in your Acharya.' Honour the Acharya as your Supreme Preceptor. Such dictum like teaching does not require further introduction or analysis. No more reasoning is needed. It is the humble duty and responsibility of every Satsangi to accept and honour H.H. Acharya Maharajshri as the supreme Preceptor of the Sampradaya - the sect. A Satsangi obeys the order of Shri Hari by receiving H.H. Acharya Maharajshri as Supreme Preceptor.

Applause and Jaijaikar should be in the name of Supreme Lord Shri Hari. Shriji Maharaj had precisely directed and had outrightly rejected the Jai Jaikar (victory slogan) of others excep the Supreme Lord of Akshardham. Of course, to be with the mainstream, we sing victory slogans for politicians and statesmen. But, it is a different story and it has nothing to do with the victory slogans shouted for the spiritual head. Devotional ways are quite different from the worldly ways. Shri Hari had narrated at many places the episodes of worldly people and devout souls.

Five hundred yogic saints were holding spiritual positions in the retinue of Lord Shriji Maharaj. Each and every one of them was excellent in his spiritual strides and devotional achievements. But they all had acted like a slave in the presence of Shriji Maharaj. Have you ever heard such victory slogans "Shri Muktanand Swami-no-Jai, Shri Brahmanand Swami-no-Jai, Shri Gopalanand Swami-no-Jai"?

The honouring word `Maharaj' suits only Shri Hari and Shri Hari's descendant heir, and that ornamental word receives grace and dignity when attached to them. `Shriji Maharaj' and `H.H. Acharya Maharajshri' are the words given by Lord Shriji Maharaj himself. None on the earth deserves or suits this ornamental word Maharaj, and nobody should attach it to others.

`Bhagwan (God) only resembles to God.' (Gadhada L-39). `Narayan only is like Lord Narayan.' And who is such God ? Lord Purushottam Narayan Shri Hari, Shri Sahajanand Swami, Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan. He is our persoal God and he is our father. None else is our father.

In our personal life when we take one to be `our father,' would it be possible to take anyone else in his place ?

Then why should there be any change in our spiritual life ? Shri Hari is our father and the Satsang that practises the foundational tenets of Shri Hari, is the farm and the field of our father Shri Hari. We should dwell in the Satsang with devotional pleasure.

If we roam here and there like a stray cattle, there shall be thorough beating for such uncalled for roaming.

Hanuman lost the Challenge

Chandrakant M. Pathak

With counsel from Naradji, a decent conjugal life was organised by the Pandavas. It was unanimously resolved by the five Pandavas to avail in proper order the conjugal life with Draupadi - their wife. It was resolved that at a time one brother from the Pandavas would live as a spouse with Draupadi. The period of such a conjugal life will be of one year. And any one who broke this arrangement by interrupting the married life of those two would have to undergo a self exile of twelve years with absolute celibacy in the forest. Even a momentary presence of a few seconds shall be treated as a breach of this resolution.

The Pandavas were very happy. Their empire was expanding and the subjects were secured and happy under their rule. The imperial flag of Dharmraj was flying high in the sky of Indraprastha. Meanwhile, a serious offence took place in the territory of Indraprastha. Some thieves stole the cows of a Brahmin. The householder Brahmin came to the court of the Pandavas and prayed to Arjuna to save his cows by punishing those thugs. Arjuna rose from his seat to catch the thieves, but hesitated a bit, to go ahead. His weapon Gandiva (divine bow of Arjuna) was in the inner room where Yudhishthira and Draupadi lived. It would be a breach of resolution if he entered the room. And if he did not get the Gandiva, he would fail in his royal duties. He thought for a while and then entered the room with a polite excuse, took his Gandhiva swiftly and ran to chase the thieves. In no time he got hold of the thieves and the cows. He fulfilled his duty and handed over the cows to the brahmin.

Though he interrupted his eldest brother only for a second and that too to serve the state, the unanimous resolution was violated by such a act of his. And therefore, he accepted exile of twelve years with absolute celibacy. He took permission from Yudhishthira and left Indraprastha to visit Haridwar, Badarikedar, Naimisharanya, Anga Desha and in his pilgrimage he did darshan of Shrines in Bengal, Mahendragiri, Manipur, Shivakanchi and Vishnukanchi. From there he entered the forests of Kamyak Vana and came to Setu Bandha Rameshwaram.

The episode of the invocation ceremony of Lord Shiva at Rameshwaram is very interesting. It is said that King Ravana of Lanka was invited by Lord Rama to grace the highest seat of the Acharya of the invocation rituals. Ravana was a single minded devotee of Lord Mahadeva. Ravana honoured the invitation with great pleasure and graced the occasion. He guided them about the lingam (icon of Lord Shiva) to be procured, the place from where it was to be brought, the attributes of that lingam and it's size. Also he fixed the auspicious time when the invocation rituals were to be held. Hanuman was deputed by Shri Rama to bring the Lingam as per description. Hanuman was sent to the Kashi region to get the Lingam.

Ravana then came to Rama to install the icon of Lord Shiva. He was dressed like a brahmin. He was most courteous and maintaned decorum as the Acharya of religious ceremony. He was aware that while invoking Lord Shiva, Rama was required to host the rituals in the company of Sitaji.

Therefore, he came there with Sitaji. To rule out outrightly uncalled for comments, he brought Sitaji in the company of Vibhishan's wife. The auspicious time was nearing, but there was no sign of Hanuman. He had not yet come from Kashi.

To resolve the issue as Acharya of the installation rituals, Ravana spelled, 'Auspicious time is being lost. We can not do so. Rama ! Please ask Sitaji to make as per my instruction the lingam from the sand. I will tell you from where the sand is to be brought. We will install that lingam for the invocation rituals.'

As was asked by the Acharya in accordance to vedic procedure, the Shiva Lingam was installed by Lord Rama. Ravana then went back to Lanka with Vibhishan's wife and Sitaji.

After some time, Hanumanji came there with a Lingam from Kashi. He explained to Lord Rama the cause of delay. Hanumanji was very sad on the installation of a sand-made idol God, as the ceremony was carried out on the instance of Ravana and was done so without waiting for the lingam from him. But being a humble servant of God, he obeyed the wishes of Lord Rama and happily accepted the explanation given by Rama.

`Lord ! Now what should we do of the Lingam I have brought from Kashi ?' 'We will install this Lingam by your blessed hand adjoined right to the Lingam installed by me. I will act as Acharya of the invocation rituals.' As was desired by Rama the lingam was installed by Hanuman and the rituals were conducted by Rama. These days we see two Shiva-lingam installed in a pair at the shrine of Rameshwaram.

Arjuna in his exile as a celibate was on a pilgrimage of the holy shrines of India. He came to Rameshwaram and did Darshan of Lord Shiva dwelling at this sacred Shine. He met Hanuman too and they saluted each other. Hanuman told him that he resides there forever to do darshan of Lord Rama. Many Rishis, saints and deities who went there to visit that holy shrine had favoured him by their blissful darshan. He spent time in singing the praises of Lord Rama.

Arjuna then prayed him to natrate the blissful episodes of Lord Rama. Anjani's worthy son Hanuman then narrated to Arjuna the majestic episodes of Lord Rama. He described the divine life of Lord Rama in his human form, he narrated the forest life of Rama and the journey of both the brothers in search of Sitaji, and their arrival at the sea shore to visit Lanka. He then described the majestic event of constructing a splendid bridge on the sea to enter the golden city of Lanka. He described the divine powers of Lord Rama and his brother Lakshmana and narrated the blessed attributes of the monkey brothers - Nala and Neela, who executed and managed the architectural work of constructing the bridge. He narrated with devotion and faith the creation of the bridge wherein Nala and Neela made the stones float on the sea waters by writing on them the holy name of Lord Rama. Thus they constructed a magnificent bridge of 6400 miles.

While listening to the episode of the construction of the bridge, `Arjuna asked smilingly, `Lord Rama was divine and a manifestation of the Supreme God. Nothing was impossible for him. He was an expert warrior holding the power of missiles. Why did he not construct the bridge with his arrows'.

Arrow is a weapon of destruction. It can not be used in construction. A bridge made by arrows can not last. It will break in no time' said Hanuman. `If I would have been at the site, I could have constructed an undestructible bridge with my arrows.' said Arjuna proudly.

`If that is so, then construct a bridge now to prove your skills. Let me see, how much strong it could be' said Hanuman.

Arjuna then built a bridge one yojan (a measurement equal to 16 miles) long, with his arrows. Then he challenged Hanuman to test its strength and added that it was strong like the thunder bolt of Indra. Arjuna then declared a vow that if anybody broke that bridge by his strength and power, he would burn himself in a burning pyre.

Hanuman took up that challenge in the right spirit and roared, `Oh Son of Kunti ! Oh Arjuna ! If I can't break the bridge in a single jump, I will surrender to you as a slave. Come on. Take this challenge and stick to your words.'

`Oh Son of Anjani ! I am happy to take up your challenge. Go ahead. Act with full force. Let there be addition of one more warrior in the histories of brave warriors' said Arjuna.

Hanuman jumped with full force with Jai Jaikar of Rama and broke the bridge in a single jump. Arjun went pale with shame. He then arranged a pyre by collecting fire wood and readied himself for the self sacrifice in burning pyre.

The wave of this calamity shocked Lord Shri Krishna at Dwarika Lord Shri Krishna in Dwarikadham, was gracing his royal throne in the inner room. He became worried for Arjuna and for that which was supposed to be implemented in the world through Arjuna. If he burnt his body the history of the worldwide changes was to unceremoniously stop forever.

At Rameshwaram, the pyre was ready and Arjuna was busy in giving the last touches to the pyre. Then all of a sudden there came a Brahmin who asked, `Brother ! Who has passed away ?' `No body has passed away at present, but will pass away in a short while,' said Arjuna. The brahmin kept silent to know more about the occasion. Extreme curiosity was lurking in his eyes and on his face. Arjuna then told him the story of the bridge and the vow and explained in short the end result of the episode.

The brahmin then questioningly looked at Hanuman and said to both of them, `It may be a hard fact that there was a challenge between you two, but was there any witness to this challenge and to the oath ?' Both of them replied in the negative.

Then the Brahmin said, `Listen to me. A challenge between two without any witness, can not become publicly acceptable and the world can not believe in it. Therefore, I will act as a witness for both of you. Let this gentleman build the bridge again, and you breake it thereafter. Act as per the result of this challenging test.' Both agreed to the rational advice of the brahmin.

Arjuna again made a long bridge with his arrows. And Lord Shri Krishna who was disguised as a brahmin, secretly kept his divine disc to strengthen the bridge from its bottom. Lord Hanuman jumped with full force, but the bridge stood rock strong without any jerk. The Brahmin then declared Hanuman as a loser and requested him to grace the status flags of Arjuna and to help him in the time of acute emergency.

Thus the challenge was resolved most amicably.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Dhoon Programmes held at Shri Swamianrayan Temple, Ahmedabad and at all the temples of Lord Narnarayandev dioces

The devotees and the saints await eagerly every year for the benedictory period of Dhanurmaas. This sacred period of the thirty deays enhances the spiritual growth of the devotees and in refreshing cold of winter, they meet to gather to sing Dhoon and devotional songs at our temples. These early morning daily sesseons are the religious feast for all the aspirants. Those are most fortunate souls, who have earned an opportunity to sing the praises collectively at our temples.

Lord Narnarayan Dev - Supreme Lord and emperor of Bharat Khand - dwells in Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Kalupru. Lord Swaminarayan Bahgwan himself had installed the idols by a heart-to-heart warm hug and with the embrace of oneness. During Dhanurmaas dhoon sessions are held invariably everyday at the Prasaid Sabha Mendapam. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graces the sessions daily by their benign presence at the Sabha Mandapam. Respected Gadiwalashri and Respected Vahuji Maharaj graces such sessions held at the Haveli Temple. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, Dharm Kul family, saints and about five hundred devotees and saints have contributed for this month long devotional programme, and have earned divine pleasure of supreme Lord. Besides these hosts of month long dhoons, there were thousands who had hosted one day Dhoon. The Sabha Mandpam and corridors were fully packed by the devotees through out these religious days. There are thousands, who have earned this opportuntiy, but those who have missed it, may avail the same by attending unbroken Dhoon of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. - *Shastri Satyaprakashdasji*

Foundation Laying Ceremony of Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)

Our devotees at Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) have been earning pleasure and blessings of Shri Hari by conducting regular Satsang Sabhas on every Sunday. Our faithful devotee Shri Rajendrabhai Patel leads this Satsang group and guides them for our religious celebrations.

H.H. Acharay Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri with the Dharmkul had favoured this Satsang at Kanpur by their personal presence time and again. Thus, the Satsang at Kanpur progresses well.

Our aspirant devotees were in need of a retiring place in their pilgrimage of Ayodhya, Chhapaiya, Kashi and Prayag. S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji had been at this palce to conduct Satsang sessions under the orders of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. During such Satsang, he found greater devotional desire in the devotees for construction of a temple in this largest city of Uttar Pradesh.

At one such Satsang Sabha S.G. P.P. Swami proposed to the Satsangis to construct a temple. Satsangis responded collectively with great zeal and our faithful devotee Shri Rajendrabhai Patel declared a donation of his located at N.H.-2 of Kanpur. Thus the land admeasured one acre and priced at Rupees twenty five lakhs, was submitted at the lotus feet of Shri Hari. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri blessed the proposal telephonically and within a few days, H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced Kanpur to inspect the land and plan the temple buidling.

Soon after the visit, Mahant Swami of Chhapaiya Mandir - S. G. Celibate Vasudevanand Swami was ordered by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to take on hand the planing of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kanpur. He got the land titles clear and got approval of the plans from the Government of Uttarpradesh and local authorities. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced Kanpur on 7-12-03 and did Shilanyas Vidhi with his blessed hands.

The foundation was laid by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri in the presence of huge gathering of Local residents and devotees. Honourable Mayor of Kanpur, Shri Ramnath Mahendra (Honorary Treasurer of V.H.P.) and Sarpanchs (village readers) from the nearby seventeen villages were present on this occasion. Thousands of aspirants and devotees were present to do darshan of the ceremony. Foundation laying ceremony was publicised on a large scale by the media people and senior reporters were there to take a note of the rituals and celebrations. All were happy by this grand step towards the construction of the temple of Lord Swaminarayan. Events were organised most religiously by Mahant Swami Vasudevaanandji (Chhapaiya). Kothari Swami S.G. Anand Swami (Ahmedabad Temple), S.G. Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji Swami (Jetalpur) S.G. Narayan Swaroop Swami (Prayag), Mahant Swami

Akhileshwardasji (Mathura), Mahant Swami V.P. Swami (Dhariawad) and Shastri Hariprakash Swami (Muli) were present at the celebration.

Celibate Swami Krishnaswaroopanandji and celibate Swami Hariswaroopanandji Swami have been appointed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to monitor the construction of the temple and the guest house. Both the Swamis are the disciples of Celibate Mahant Swami Vasudevanandji (Chhapaiya). - *K.P. Swami, Jetalpur Mahant*

Tulsi Vivah celebrations at Naranpura Temple

Tulsi Vivah ceremony was organised by the temple to celebrate the events of Platinum Jubiliee year. This grand event was celebrated at the campus of the TERF school. A colurful procession was led by H.H. Lalji Maharajshri with a large following of saints and devotees gathered at our Ranip Temple. And the groom Lord Shaligram accompanied by H.H. Lalji Maharajsrhi and followed by the thousands of saints, arrived at the bride's place of Terf's grounds. Groom side was hosted by Devotees Shri Ravjibhai Virjibhai Patel and his family and the bride side was hosted by the devotees Shri Hiraben Ambalal Patel and Shri Ghanshyambhai Ambalal Patel (kokhasan). Devout host families were blessed by H.H. Lalji Maharajshri and the pleasure was were addressed to the devotees. Festive Satsang Sabha was addressed by Mahant Swami Nirgundasji Swami (Ahmedabad Temple) Naranpura Mahant Shastri Swami Premswaroopdasji, Narayanghat Mahant Shastri Ghanshyam Swami and senior devotee Shri Jayantibhai Patel (National Water Tank) and the devotees were asked by them to participate wholcheartedly in forthcoming festivities of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

In his blessed words, H.H. Acharya Maharajshri repeatedly announced his resolute of forming a musium of the Prasadi Items of Lord Shri Hari. His Holiness commanded everybody to dedicate heartily towards the cause. He blessed the marriage party and bride side and conveyed the pleasure of Shri Hari. - *Kanubhai Patel*

Shri Swaminarayan Temple Gandhianagar (Sector : 23) Celebrates Silver Jubilee Patotsava

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (Sector : 23) Gandhinagar was the first temple of Gandinagar - the state captial. H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri had installed the idols of God on auspicious 30th day of April in 1979 when it was the first constructed temple of Gandhinagar. The temple had completed 25 years to celebrate Silver Jubilee Patotsava.

Grand Silver Jubilee Patotsava was organized here at the temple to present 25th annual Mahabhishekam to Lord Thakorji and other Gods. As was inspired by S.G. Harikeshavdasji Swami, a religious festival was organised for the five days and various devotional and social services were conducted to please Shri Hari. A skin-desease camp was conducted free of cost for the three days and specialised services, consultation and medicines were provided to the patients of skin deseases. Similar medical camps were conducted besides this to help the patients in blood group checking, heart ailments, dental health, general health and children ailments. About one thousand people were benefitted by this medical service.

Satsang sessions were conducted everyday at evening and devotees were addressed by S.G. Harikeshavdasji for building a valueb and virue based life styl. The devotees and aspirants were benefitted extensively the time tested preaching ameant for rebuilding their life. Cultural programmes were presented everyday at late evening and highly educative contents were presented on the stage. One act plays such as `Kuldeepak" (the heir), `Vinash-nu-Vavetar Aetale Vyasan' (intoxication saws the seeds of self destruction) and `Sansar-ma-Swarga' (worldly heaven) were became more appealing to the audience.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple on 28th day of December and concluded the ceremomies by presenting Abhishekam Aarti to Lord Thakorji. Then he did conclusive Poojan Aarti of the sacred scripture and graced Satsang Sabha. Entire Satsang of Gandhinagar earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting collectively the Aarti with the sixty lamps. This special welcome Aarti stood for the Platinum Jubilee Year - the 60th birthday of Acharya Maharajshri. Shri Hari's sixth descendant heir - H.H. Acharya Maharajshri - released then the religious book `Shrimad Bhagwat Katha Saara' (written in Gujarati) by S.G. Harikeshavasji.

S.G. Shastri Swami Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Mahant), S.G. Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji Swami (Jetalpur), Shastri Keshavprasaddasji, Shastri Harijivandasji, S.G. Raghuvir Swami, S.G. Orator Saint Ghanshyamcharan Swami and other saints were present on this occasion. H.H. Acharay Maharajsri blessed the audience with his eternal pleasure and said, `The activities being conducted by S.G. Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji under the auspie of Lord Narnarayandev, may last eternally

to bless and benedict the aspirant souls. He admired the invitation card of the celebrations and said that the invition card was most thoughtfully designed and was enough to inject spirit of devotion. Sabha was conducted by Shastri Hari Swami.

The events were hosted by Shri Lakshmanbhai Naranbhai Patel. Thousands of devout families and the saints from the various places were favoured devotionally by the blissful Darshan and blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Maha Prasad meals were served to all the visitors, guests and devotees.

Dhanurmaas Dhoons held at Shri Swamianrayan Temple, Jetalpur

Tetalpur is the bleseed prasadi place of Shri Hari. The land and every earth-particle of this palce has been sanctified by the blessed touch of Lord Shri Hari's lotus like feet. Lord Shri Revati Bladevji Harikrishanf Maharaj resides here at this shrine. Dhanurmaas Dhoon sessions were held here for a mouth in benign presence of indwellers God, with the due blessings from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. The devotees of this area were encouraged and inspired by Mahant Swami Shastri Atmaprakashdasji (Jetalpur Dhaam) and Mahant Swami S.G.K.P Swami (Jetalpur). Early morning Dhoon sessions were conducted by the group of the saints with the help and participation of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal and the students of Akshar Mahol Wadi Sanskrit Pathshala. The sessions were held at the blessed Sabha Mandap of the temple.

Daily Dhoon programmes were attended by a large number of aspirants arrivedg from Jetalpur town and nearby villages. Gurukul scholars are attending this divine feast on Sundays and holidays. *- Poojri Vrajvallabhdas*

Platinum Jubilee Parayan of Satsangi Bhushan (6-12 to 12-12-03)

Our temple at Laloda had celebrated the events of Platinum Jubilee year by conducting a week long Parayan Katha of Shrimad Satsangi Bhusan. The feast of devotional knowledge was organised with the due permission and blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri.

Parayan sessions were organised by the local saints under the guidance and consultation from Mahant Swami Ghanshyamjivandasji (Laloda). The seat of the main speaker of Parayan sessions was graced by Shastri Swami Harjijvandasji (Disciple of S.G. Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji) Text was read by Shastri Swami Chhapaiyaprasaddasji.

Religious procession of the sacred scripture was conducted from the house of devotee Shri Jethabhai. The sacred scriputre was received honourably at the Katha Mandapam. Concluding sesion was graced by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri with a grand retinue of the saints and senior devotees. Entire village was in a jubilent devotional mood on arrival of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and their devotional love was become visible in the form of welcome procession of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri.

H.H. Acharay Maharajshri graced the temple and presented Aarti to Lord Thakorji. Parayan Katha was concluded by him by presenting poojan Aarti to the sacred scripture.

A special assembly was organised on this auspicious occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the sabha with his saints. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri was received and honoured at the stage by the flower garlands presented reverantly by the Mahant Swami of the temple. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri canveyed his hearty blessings. Host devotees were honoured and blessed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Mahant Swami S.G. Shastri Swami Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Temple), S.G. Shastri Swami Harikeshavdasji (Gandhinagar), and S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur) were present on this occasion. They blessed the aspirants and presented the glimpses of the forthcoming celebrations of Platinum Jubilee with an appeal to the aspirants to participate heartily and by all three meany.

Sabha was concluded with the hearty blessings of H.H. Acharay Maharajshri. In his nectar like words, H.H. Acharya Maharajshri expressed his hearty pleasure for the devotional services extended by Mahant Swami Ghanshyamjivajndasji, Swami Mohanprasaddasji (disciple of S.G. Ghanshyamjivandasji) and Swami Vishwaprakashdasji. His Holiness conferred ceremoniously the spiritual status of "Sad Guru" to Shri Balkrishna Swami (disciple of S.G. Ghanshyamjivandasji). The Sabha was conducted jointly by Shastri Swami Haripriyadasji (Gandhinagar) and Shri Amritbhai Patel. Responding to the appeal from the saints, total dedication and participation by all three means was assured on the behalf of the village towards forthcoming Plitinum Jubilee Birthday Celebation, and an announcement to that effect was made public at the Sabha. Female-devotees were favoured specially by the Dharmkul as Respected Gadiwalashri with her retinue of Samkhya Yogi

female was present at the concluding ceremony of the feast of the divine knowledge. Dharmkul was resided at the house of Shri Devcharnadbhai. Villaged people were favoured everyday by Maha Prasadam of Parayan Satsang. And on the concluding sessions, sumptuous meals were served to all the people present at the concluding ceremony, beside the residents of Laloda. About fifty saints were present during the Parayan Satsang. They were come from Ahmedabad, Jetalpur, Kankaria, Narayanghat, Gandhinagar, Idar, Sapawada, Bilia, Himatnagar, Shokli and Torda. *- Shri Ghanshyam Mandal*

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan (13th to 17th Dece.) Held at Ishwarpura

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan Katha was organised here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. The parayan was hosted by devotee Shri Galbabhai Jorabhai Chaudhari and family in devotional memory of Late S.G. Swami Krishnaswaroopdasji. The seat of the main speaker of the Parayan Katha was graced by Shastri Swami Ramkirshnadasji (Koteshwar Gurukul) and the text of the scripture was read by Shastri Swami S.G. Ghanshyam-prakashdasji (Koteshwar Gurukul).

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this village and blessed the concluding ceremonies of this grand feast of devotional knowledge. His Holiness and retinue were received with great honour and devotional love. A grand welcome procession escorted H.H. Acharya Maharajshri to receive him at the temple. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the shrine and presented Aarti to Lord Thakorji. Then he graced Parayan Sessions and concluded the Katha by presenting concluding Aarti to the sacred scripture.

A Special Sabha was organised on this religion occasion. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the Sabha to bless his dependant devotees. The host family earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting poojan aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shastri Swami S.G. Harikrishnadasji (Chhapaiya), S.G. Devprakashdasji Swami (Scheme Committee), and Shastri Swami Anandpriyadasji (Vastral Gurukul) were present on this occasion. They praised the devotional service of the host family and discussed the details of forthcoming festivities of Platinum Jubilee Birthday. This special Satsang was conducted by S.G. P.P. Swami (Junior). H.H. Acharya Maharajshri showered his hearty blessings and asked them to be firmer in the faith. Shri Mayank Modi (child artist) and Shri Purav Patel (Koteshwar Gurukul) have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by singing devotional songs at the Parayan Katha sessions. The religious walk was conducted in the village to wake up the village people by devotional music and Dhoon.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced village Varsoda to do darshan of Lord Thakorji, during his religious tour of Ishwarpura. He was pleased at the dedication of the devotees and admired their devotional love. This temple treasures most valuable prasadi Idols, foot prints and intricately carved throne of Lord Shri Hari.

Nearby village - Badarapura had restrengthened the faith by conducting collective religious walk early in the morning to awaken the souls from the darkness and sleep of ignorance.

- P.P. Swami (junior)

Satsang Sabha at Dharampur

A Satsang Sabha was held here under the orders of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. The Sabha was organised by Mahant Swami S.G. Neelkanthdasji (Sapawada) and Mahant Swami S.G. Bhaktavatsaldasji to celebrate the events of Platinum Jubilee year. Dhoon, Kirtans and Katha Satsang was presented to please Lord Thakorji and devotees were informed about the forthcoming celebrations of Platinum Jubilee Birthday and glory and greatness of Dharmkul was explained in detail to help them in devotion and devotional services. *- Kothari*

Satsang Sabha at Veda-Govindpura

A special satsang was organised here to celebrate the event of Platinum Jubilee. The Sabha was organised by Mahant Swami Bhaktavatsaldasji (Limbdi). In his enlightening discourse, S.G. Mahant Swami narrated various episodes of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and explained to the devotees the glory and greatness of Dharm Vanshi Acharyashri. He then appealed to the youths to break the shakles named intoxication or intoxicants. He asked them to be faithful to God, Acharyashri and saints. *- Vandanprakashdas*

Kaliyana holds a Constant Dhoon of Sixty hours duration

A constant Dhoon programme of sixty hours duration was organised here with spiritual support of Smakhya Yogi Babuba, besides a programme of singing 'Jan Mangal' hymans 1,25,000 time. Both the programmes were the part of the events being orgnaised in the light of forthcomign grand celebration of Platinum Jubilee Birthday. Early morning Dhoon sessions were conducted regulalrly during the Dhanurmaas to sing the praises of Shri Hari. Dhoon sessions were sperate

for the men and women and were conducted at the respective temple. Devotees Shri Butia, Bhikhubhai Modi and Kotharishri have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by extending loudable service at the programmes. - *Arjanbhai Mori*

The Satsang Sabha held at Kanod and Menar (Rajasthan)

A grand Satsang Sabha was held here on date 8-9-2003 at Kanod in context to forthcoming mega festival of Platinum Jubilee Birthday of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The event was organised by Mahant Swami Shastri Ishwarjeevandasji (Dhariawad temple) and Shasti Bhaktinanandandasji with the due blessigns of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. Dhoon, Kirtan and Katha Satsang was presented to please Lord Thakorji and enlightening discourse was delivered to explain glory and greatness of Shri Hari, original Sumpradaya, Dharmkul and Dharm Vanshi Acharyashri of Lord Narnarayandev Peeth. Shri Hemantbhai Soni has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by extending loudable service.

Similar Sabha was conducted on date 11-12-2003 at Menar and enlightening discourses were delivered by Mahant Sami Shastri Ishwarjeevandasji and Shastri Bhaktinandandasji. Devotees were invited to particiapte actively in Platinum Jubilee celebrations. The Sabha was organised by Shri Lakshmichanddasji.

- *Sadhu Bhaktinanadandas*

Patotsava at Himatnagar Temple

The Fourteenth annual Patotsava of God was organised here at our temple with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Main events of this religious celebration were organised by the saints and devotees under the inspiration from Mahant Swami Shastri Anandjeevandasji and rituals were conducted under the guidance from Swami Dharmkishordasji. Devotees Shri Vijay Modi and Shri Nileshbhai Laljibhai have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Patotsava Celebrations (29-11-03).

A Pada-Yatra (religious walk) was organised from Himatnagar to Prantij to celebrate events of Platinum Jubilee. A large number of devotees have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by participating in religious walk. Maha-Prasad was arrarged by Shri Kiritbhai at Ilol has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by arranging Maha Prasad for the Pada Yatra pilgirms, and Shri Dilipbhai Trivedi has earned the blessings of Shri Hari by arranging snacks for the pilgrims. - *Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal*

Pratapura (Balva)

Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal organises here Satsang Sabhas every sunday to sing the praises of Shri Hari and explains to the devotees the glory and greatness of Shri Hari, Dharmkul and Dharm Vanshi Acharya Maharajshri. These week-end Satsang Sabhas are an initegrat part of the events of Platinum Jubilee year. Such Sabhas are being conducted simultaneously by the youths at the nearby villages and people are being educated against the intoxicants. Bal Mandals are being formed to taeh ethical duties to the growing generation. Five life members and sixty annual members have been enrolled for Shri Swaminarayan (magazine).

- *Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal.*

Platinum Jubilee Satsang held at Bhavpura (Kadi)

The events are being organized at the various places to celebrate platinum Jubilee year, and Satsang Sabhas are being conducted in this context to educate masses about the glory and greatness of Shri Hari and Dharm Vansh. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandals and saints are organising such Sabhas with the due belssings of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri.

One such Sabha was held on date 24-11-03 at Bhavpura (Kadi). H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced the Sabha with his retinue of saints and senior devotees. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri and saints were received with great love by conducting a grand well come procession. The Sabha was organised under the personal guidance from S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur). A hand some fund of Rupees three hundred thousand was collected as the donations towards forthcoming grand event of Platinum Jubilee. A large number of youths have offerd thier volunteery service. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri had amired the faith and devotion Bhavpura village.

- *K.P. Swami, Jetalpur Mahant*

Patotsava Satsang held at Sitapur

A Satsang Sabha was organised on 26-11-03 at Sitapur (Teh. Mandal) to celebrate the events of Platinum Jubilee Birthday. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced this devout village to celebrate annual Patotsava of indwelling Gods. S.G. Shastri Swami Atmaprakahdasji (Mahant Swami, Jetalpur) and S.G. Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji Swami were present on this religious occasion. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced the Sabha with his retinue of the saints and devotees. Donations and cash gifts of rupees three lakh were announced by the devotees to respond the appeal of Platinum Jubilee

Celebration. Kothari Baldevbhai, Natubhai and Baldevbhai Soni were present on this occasion to serve to the cause. Shri Rasikbhai Soni was arrived from Ahmedabad to register maximum participation of the devotees. In his special announcement, H.H. Lalji Maharajshri declared the appointment of Shri Rasikbhai Dayalji Soni to hold the responsibilities as Treasurer to the Platinum Jubilee Celebration Committee. He was then honoured by garlading flower garlands.

- K. P. Swami, Jetalpur Temple

The Sixth Descendant Heir of Shri Hari Graces the Land of Vadnagar

Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Parayan was organized here at our Temple by Mahant Swami S.G. Swami Harisevadasji with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. This five days Parayan Satsang was initiated on 12-12-03, and the main seat of the speakers of the Parayan Katha was hosted jointly by S.G. Shastri Dharmvallabhdasji (Mahant Swami, Unava) and Kothari S.G. Shastri Vishwaprakashdasji.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this ancient city on 16-12-03 to attend concluding ceremony of Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Parayan. His holiness graced the temple, did poojan-arti of indwelling God Thakorji and graced a grand welcome procession to favour the residents by his blissful darshan. Thereafter, he graced Parayan Satsang and concluded Parayan-Katha by presenting Aarti to the sacred scripture. He then graced the special assembly held on this religious occasion. In his devotion filled speech, S.G. Narayanvallabhdasji (Director, Vadnagar Gurukul) displayed his satisfaction towards the fulfilment of the devotional wishes of his Guru Swami Harisewadasji. S.G. Harisevadasji did Poojan-Aarti of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and earned the pleasure of Shri Hari. The saints from Ahmedabad, Muli, Narayanghat, Mansa, Idar and Siddhapur were present at this religious celebration. The services of Mahant Swami and dedication of the team of the saints was appriciated by S.G. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad Temple), and Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji. In his devotion filled speech, Shri Navinbhai Modi narrated the glory and greatness of Dharmkul. Shri Somabhai Modi (elder brother of Shri Narendrabhai Modi, C.M. Gujarat State) withthe President of Vadnagar Municipaty were present at the special assembly. The celebrations were concluded with the belssings of Acharya Maharajshri.

- Shastrif Swami Vishwaprakashdasji

Vali (Rajasthan)

A free medical camp was organized here to provide medical assistance in Opthalmic check-up and treatment. A large number of patients were benefitted by this camp.

Thobau (Rajasthan)

Maha Pooja was organized on 21-21-03 at our temple to celebrate events of Platinum Jubilee year. Devotees from Thobau and nearby villages were benefitted by this religious event.

Vapa (Rajasthan)

Maha Pooja was organized here on 29-11-03 by the local devotees to celebrate the events of Platinum Jubilee year. Devotees were benefitted by this religious programme.

- Kevaram Suthar and Piparam Soni.

Eudcational note from H.H. Acahray Maharajshri Devendraprasadji Education Trust

Our Students of Shri Sahajanand Primary School have secured honourable position by presenting a ``scientifc model for energy'' at the Energy Festival held at the state-level. School stood third in this presentation and in Green shop they have secured second position. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri conveys his hearty blessings to the students, parents and teachers and conveys congratulation to S.G. Shastri Atmaprakashdasji (Hon. Secretary). *- Surekhaben Head Mistress*

Our Prayag (Allahabad) Temple of Shri Narnarayandev Desh extends Guest houses Services to the devotee

Holy Shrine Prayag is the meeting place of three holy rivers. A spacious temple and the guest house have been constructed here at the holy shrine with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and resected Lalji Maharajshri to extend residential services to the pilgrim devotees visiting Ayodhya, Chhapaiya and other shrines in northern region of India. The devotees from overseas and the pilgrim devotees from the other region of India should make it a point to stay at our temple residency for the sanctity in their pilgrimage. S.G. Swami Narayanswaroopdasji has been appointed as Mahant of this shrine by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri of Shri Narnarayandev Peeth. Personal attenation and cara are the basic aims of this religious-inn.

Contact :
Mahant Swami
Shri Swaminarayan Temple,
Mahatma Gandhi Road, Opp. : K. P. College,
Allahabad (Prayag). Phone : (0532) 604914.

MULI REGION

Jasapar (Dhrangadhra)

Shrimad Satsangi Bhushan Parayan-Katha (5-12-03 to 9-12-03) was organised here at our temple to celebrate installation ceremony of the diols of God. The events and ceremonies were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Future Acharya H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. The seat of the speaker of the Parayan sessions was graced by S.G. Swami Ramkrishnadasji (Director, Dhrangadhra Gurukul). Shri Hari Yaag was conducted for the three days, besides Satsang sessions to sing Dhoons and Kirtans.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced this small place and concluded the rituals of Parayan Katha and Hari-Yaag by his personal presence dated 9-12-03. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced the temple and did instaltion of the idols amidst the chants of vedic hymns. Thereafter he concluded parayan katha by presentng Aarti to the sacred scripture and concluded Shri Hari-Yaag. The text of the sacred scriptures was read most religiously by Sadhu Divyaprakashdasji of Muli Dhaam. Celebrations and special assembly was conducted by Pujari Swami Premvallabhdasji (Muli Temple) and Swami Bhaktiprakashdasji.

- Sadhu Nilkanthprasaddas.

Ramgadh (Dhrangadhra)

The forty nineth annual Patotsava was celebrated here as an event of Platinum Jubilee Year and a five days satsang camp was organzied on this ocassion. The events were blessed by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. Dhoon and Kiratns were presented at the camp by Swami vigyandasji and his group of singer saints to please Lord Thakoji. Group Maha Pooja was presented by a large group of devotees and resolutes were made by many devotees to give away their addiction of tobacco and Bidi.

- Sadhu Divyaprakashdas

Shakotsava at Prasadi Gyan Vaav

About five thousand devotees from this region were benefitted religiously be the Shakotsava festivities held on date 23-12-03 at the prasadi Gyan Vaav of Muli Dhaam. Shakotsava was hosted Jaintly by the Surendrangar Satsang Samaj and Morvi Satsang Samaj, with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Kirtan-Katha Satsang was presented by the saints from Muli, Morvi and Dhrangadhara. Events were conducted by Shastri Swami Premvallabhdasji. *- Shailendra Jhala*

Satsangi Jivan Prayan at Surendranagar Temple

Shrimad Satsangi Jivan Parayan (9-12-03 to 13-12-03) was organised here with the due blessings from Respected Gadiwalashri to celebrate anual patotsava of teh women's temple the feast of divine knowledge was organised to celebrate Annual Patotsava of Gods dweling at the womens' temple of this place. Devotees were inspired by Samkhya Yogi Kamala Baa, Kokila Baa and Usha Baa. The Parayan was hosted by Kirtiben (Kapadvanj) and the seat of the main speaker was graced by Shastri Swami Shrijiprakashdasji.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Respected Gadiwalashri graced the celebrations and blessed their dependant devotees. The events were conducted by Shastri Swami Premvallabhdasji. The Dhoon of sixty hours shall be done by individual devotees with total adherance to the Niyams to celebrate the events of Platinum Jubilee Year and oaths to that effect have been made individually by all the devotees. *- Shailednra Jhala*

Bhaktinagar (Halvad)

A special Satsang was organized here by Swami Shrijiswaroopdasji, Bhakti Swami and Vishwavihari Swami, and Dhoon, Katha, Kirtans were presetned to celebrate the events of Platinum Jubilee year. The details of Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and the glory and greatnes of Dharm kul were explaiend to the devotees. The resoltues were made by the aspirants to adhere to the directions and rules of this sect. *- Gopal and Neelkanth Swami*

Satsang Sabha at Lilapur

Special Satsang was conducted here on date 22-12-03 celebrate the events of Platinum Jubilee year. Swami Vishwa Viharidasji, Swami Bhaktiviharidasji, Haricharan Swami and Nilkanth Sami were present on this occasion with the group of the saints. Dhoon Bhajan and Katha Satsang was held to please Lord Thakorji. Devotees were come forward to leave intoxicants and follow the tenets of the sect.

OVERSEAS

Streadhem temple (I.S.S.O., U.K.)

New Year Annakut was presented to Lord Thakorji at this temple, and Annakut Aarti was presented for the whole day at the interval of one hour right from 10-00 am to 9-00 p.m. on date 25-10-03 with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

Tulsi Vivah was organised on 9-11-03. Shri Rasikbhai Gordhanbhai Patel and family had earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting bride

side of Tulsiji. Shri Amishiben Vinodbhai Trivedi and her family with Shri Annapurnaben Ravishnakar Shukla family have earned the pleasure of Shriji Maharaj by hosting groom side of Lord Shaligram. Religious festivals are being celebrated regularly at this temple and Satsang is progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. - *Dr. Amarshibahi Gohel*

Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Leicester (I.S.S.O. U.K.)

Goup recitation of Hanumanchalisa hymn was conducted here on 13-12-03 and 108 shuch recitation were submitted to Lord Kashtabhanjandev. The religious chanting lasted for the whole day i.e. 10 am to 6-00 p.m. Shri Rudabhai Ramji Hirani and family had earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting this religious session. Many devotees have been benefitted by the group recitation of special appeal to Lord Hanuman.

Host Shri Rudabhai was honoured by our president Shri Jayantibhai Patel and the vote of thanks was passed. Satsang is progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. - *Hemrajbhai Chotalia*

Crawely Satsang Sabha (I.S.S.O. Europe)

With the blessings from His Holiness Acharya Maharajshri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj of Shree NarNarayan Dev Gadi a Diwali Satsang Sabha was held on 26th October 2003 at St. Leonard's Church Hall, Langley Green, Crawely. A Grand Ankoot was presented to Shree Swaminarayan Bhagwan Shree Narnarayandev and Shree Radhakrishna dev with over 30 vegetarian dishes. The sabha started at 6pm with the 2 hours of continuous dhoon, bhajans and Kirans of Almighty Shri Hari. At 8pm devotees of Crawely performed a group Aarti of Shree Swaminarayan Bhagwan, Shree Narnarayandev and Shree Radhakrishnadev and served the thaal to God. They then did the dhoon of Swaminarayan Mahamantra and served Ankoot Prashad.

Torento (Canada)

The Satang Sabhas are being conducted regularly at this palce with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. These Sabhas are being organised every fortnight by the I.S.S.O. founded by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The devotees of Lord Narnarayandev are used to attend each Sabha most religiously. Deepawali Annakut and new year celebrations were held collectively by the devotees and the rituals with the sumptuous Annakut were presented to Lord Thakorji at the residence of Shri Maheshbhai Tank.

A large number of devotees from the various places were come for this festive celebration. Maha prasad was arranged for all the devotees present at the celebrations. H.H. Acharya Maharajshri had announced his resolute to construct a splendid temple at this place. His words shall be materialised in near fature.

H.H. Lalji Maharajshri had graced this region with retinue of his saints, to give devotional pleasure to his devotees. - *Maheshbhai Tank*

AKSHARVAAS

Ahmedabad : Shri Shamalbhai Gordhanbhai Soni and his family are the faithful devotees of Shri Hari. Shri Somie is a devoted disciple of S.G. Dhyani Swami. His son Keshubhai Soni passed away to Akshardham (22-12-03) amidst the chants of Shri Hari's divine names.

Demai (S.K.) : Shri Naranbhia Nathabhai Nai (age : 95 years) passed a way to Akshardham. Shri Pravinbhai Virambhai passed away to Akshardham (age : 42).May Shri Hari bless them the peace of Akshardhaam.

Ahmedabad : Shri Mavjibhai Rudabhai Panchani (orginal resident of Kutch Mankuva) had been a dedicated dependant of Lord Narnarayandev Harikirshna Maharaj and had been an obedient disciple of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Shri Mavjibhai had joined for a long period the retinue of His Holiness when H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graced south Africa Territories in 1957 A.D. Shri Mavjibhai Rudabhai Panchani passed away (7-12-03) at a matured age of 84 years. It's a great loss to the satsang of Narnarayandev Desh and Bhuj Dhaam. May Shri Hari bless him eternal bliss of Akshardhaam.

Oakland (Newzealand) : Shri Jayantibhai Patel is a faithful Satangi of Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan and presides the ISSO in Oakland. He shoulders a major responsibility of constructing Shri Saminarayan Mnadir, Oakland (N.Z.). His wife, Smt. Chandrikaben Patel had been a faithful Satsangi and was associated actively to the Satsang of Okaland. She had served personally Respected Gadiwalashri during her religious tour of Okaland Newzealand. Smt. Chandrikaben Jayantibhai passed away (11-12-2003) to Akshardham. May Shri Hari bless her the eternal bliss of Akshardham.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Donor Shri Rajendrabhai Patel laid the foundation stone of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Kanpur (U.P.). S.G. Shastri Swami Purushottam-prakashdasji and S.G. Mahant Swami celibate Vasudevanandji are present with the saints.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri gifts a photo plan of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Ahmedabad to Shri Rajanath Mahendraji (Treasurer, V.H.P.) and explains to him the majesty of the shrine in presence of Mayor Shri Anil Sharma, Shri Tiwariji (father-in-law of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri) and Shri Tiwariji (maternal uncle of respected Lalji Maharajshri).



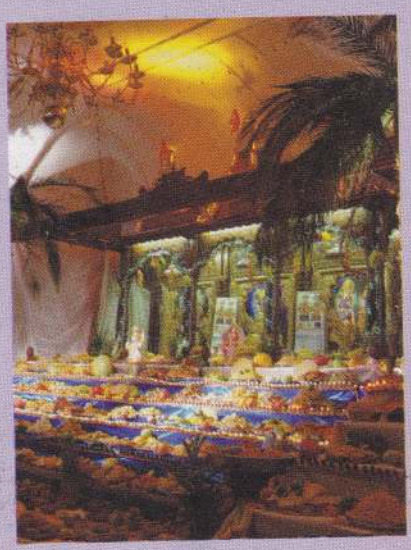
◁ Mahant Swami Ghanshyam-jivandasji at Laloda, addresses a Parayan - Sabha in benign presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri releases the sacred book of ``Bhagwat Katha Saar'' at the silver Jubilee Patotsava of Gandhinagar (Sector : 23) Temple.



I.S.S.O. Canada was founded by H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. I.S.S.O. Canada celebrates Dipawali by presenting sumptuous Annakut to Lord Thakorji.



Annakut presented at Shri Swamianrayan Temple, Streadhem.



◁ State Energy Minister Shri Saurabhbhai Shah distributes Prizes and ceertificates to the Students of Shri Sahajanand Prathmik Vidhyalaya for their state level merit in ``Urja Mahotsava.''



"The adademic degrees received after school, college or university education, can not be withdrawn at a later stage. But the degree of a `Satsangi' (faithful devotee), received by constant practice of ethical duties, needs forever the dedicated service and unbroken faith in Maharaj - God... any breach in it results into instant loss of the degree."

Platinum Jubilee : 2-4-2004 to 8-4-2004

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