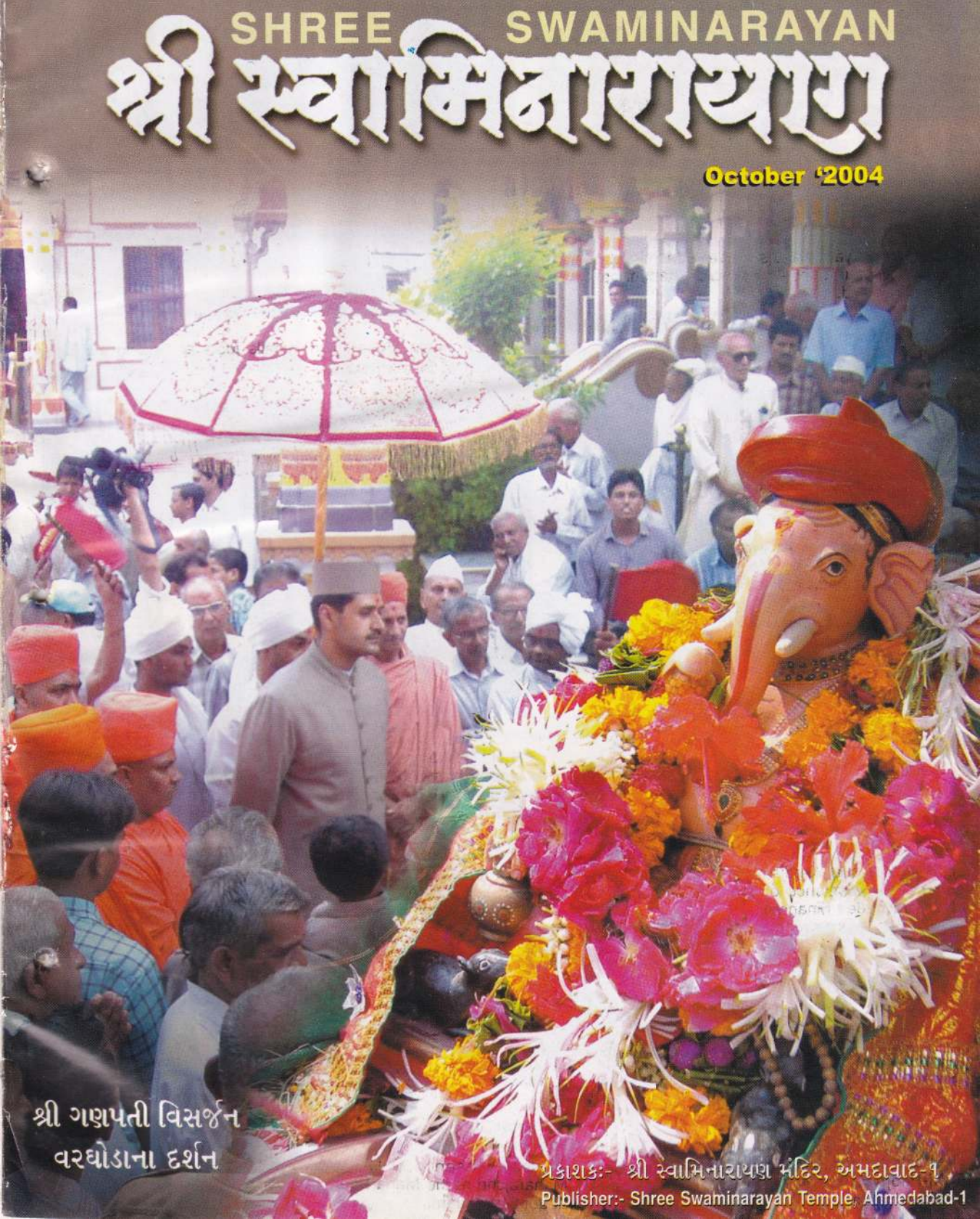
SHREE SWAMINARAYAN
શ્રી સ્વામિનારાયણ

October '2004



શ્રી ગણપતી વિસર્જન
વરઘોડાના દર્શન

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H.H. Acharya Maharajshri Presents Maha-Pooja Aarti at our temple at Approach-Bapunagar, Ahmedabad.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri installs idols of God in our new temple at Detroit (U.S.A.)



Devotees at Himatnagar have received pleasure of Shri Hari by presenting Aarti to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at the Satsang Sabha held at Himatnagar temple.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents installation-Aarti at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Detroit, U.S.A.



H.H. Acharya Maharajshri graces Maha-Pooja held at the residence of Shri Prafullbhai (Shri Narnarayandev Finance).



Devotee Ankit Patel (Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal) addresses Satsang Sabha at our Detroit Temple.



The hosts of Adhikmas Patotsava are presenting Aarti-Pooja to H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at Jetalpurdhaam.



Blessed presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at the Maha Pooja of God at Jetalpurdhaam.



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CONTENTS

1. Editorial 2

2. Appointment Diary of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri and Respected Shri Lalji Maharajshri 3

3. Hypocrisy 4

4. Sacred Thread Ceremony 5

5. The Relations in Satsang are everlasting relations, act at Lord Shri Hari's will 7

6. Don't Shut Your Palm 11

7. Roots of Contentment 12

8. Reward of Rectitude 14

9. Panchamrit : The Five Sacred Nectars 15

10. News And Notes 17

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EDITORIAL

उत्सव प्रिया: जना: Mankind loves festivals and celebrations. Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan liked to give devotional pleasure to his devotees and celebrated therefore, with the grand majesty the festivals of Janmashtami, Prabodhini, Fuldolotsava, Ramnavami etc., by Organizing splendid samaias. The great tradition of Samaias keep our mind and intelligence fresh and vibrant. Like Fresh water of a flowing river, our body and mind shall be fresh and healthy by such travel in time and place. In like manner the virtuous thoughts and wholesome ideas if in a move or in action, the soul shall be emancipated by such virtuous and benedictory acts. The soul shall not be benedicted and it will have to roam in the cycle of rebirth, unless, he knew in absolute the path of ultimate benediction. The soul is scared of the death and births, and to escape such fear, a soul roams and runs here and there and tries helplessly to shelter himself in a protective refuge of the others. The soul, therefore longs for a change – a refreshing move or some new protection for the self, Greed and temptations are visible every where in the mandkind. May be a supreme path of ultimate benediction or a material way for the worldly pleasures, but a soul in all such circumstances would feel happy by getting something new, something different and some mobility. There is a saying. પાણી વહેતું અને સાધુ ફરતા ભલા. Mobility maintains sanctity of the water and the saintly souls. Our scriptures have recommanded the pilgrimage of the holy places. Lord Shri Hari dwelling in his Nilkanth Varni form, did longest pilgrimage of holy shrines of India and met pilgrim saints like Sevakram and others to earn new experiences and refreshing ideas. It is very important to have holy company of the saints, scholars, Sadhus and philophers. It is equally important to meditate and reflect on the scriptures. The man living at a fixed place - a stationary man - can not expand his knowledge, reasohing and experiences. As the seasons changing one after another through an year, man too should change the society and the self - inner self – constantly. Such changes are natural an inner process. All such traditional or conventional or natural changes bring in fresh air and blissful pleasures. Let there be total firmness on the path of emancipation while enjoying blissful pleasure of life and that of conventional changes. May Shri Hari bless us.

- **Shastri Swami Nirgundas**
Editor
Shri Swaminarayan.



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

September-2004

4-9-04 to 15-9-04	Religious tour of U.S.A. to install idols of God at Shri Swamianrayan Mandir Detroit (ISSO) U.S.A.
16-9-04 to 23-9-04	Religious tour of Canada to grace the dwellings and establishments of the devotees and to bless the sabhas to initiate mantra-deeksha to the new Satsangis.
24-9-04 to 28-9-04	Graced Presence in U.S.A. to bless his devotees by presenting Poojan-Aarti to Lord Shri Hari dwelling at New Jersey Temple.
29-9-04	Concluded the tour and did darshan of Lord Narnarayandev at Ahmedabad Temple.



Appointment Diary of Future Acharya Respected Shri Lalji Maharajshri

September-2004

2 to 4. Graced Patotsava ceremonies at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Jaipur (Raj.)
6. Graced concluding rituals of the holy fire organized at Kankaria Temple, Ahmedabd.
7. Graced "Janmashtami Samaiya" held at Muli Dhaam.
12. Graced presence at Shri Sahajanand Gurukul, Visnagar.
13. Presented Abhishek-Poojan to Lord Mukteshwar Mahadev, Nava Vaas Hathikhana, Ahmedabad.
17. Blessed Gient Group Conferecne held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Mehsana.
18. Graced presence at Kalupur Temple to present Pooja-Aarti to Lord Ganpatiji, Ahmedabad. Inauguration and blessings at "Sun Cyber City."
19. Graced Parayan Katha held at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Narayanpura, Ahmedabad. Graced Satsang Sabha at Narayan Ghat, Ahmedabad.
22. Graced Vadu to bless Padayatris for their Padayatra to Muli Dhaam.
24. Graced presence at Ahmedabad temple to attend religious procession of Lord Ganpatiji.
25. Graced presence at Shri Narayanghat temple to present inaugural pooja-Archan to the holy scripture on occasion of Parayan-Katha.
26. Graced inauguaration ceremony of the new scheme sponsored by Shri Yogeshkumar Ramanlal, Motera, Ahmedabad.

HYPOCRISY

- Swami Bhaktinandandas

Hypocrisy pulls down a man from his higher plane and stops his progress in devotion. An careless man falls prey to hypocrisy. Hypocrisy invedas his inner and outer life. If seen by anybody, he quikly pushes his hand in rosary bag and shuts his eyes. The people when see him donate liberally in front of such a man and assume him as a real worshipper. Such a hypocrite, when sees crowds at a holy place, begins to sing loudly the kirtans and Dhoon of God and at times he stands on one foot to attract attention of the visitors. Though he looked at God, at his mind he is lost in the people looking at him and observing his gestures.

Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan went once to Vartal. Some Darbar devotees accompanied him, and one among them was Sura Khachar. On way to Vartal, they found a hut of a Sadhu. The Sadhu was a cunning fellow. He saw them from a distance and shut his eyes by sitting in lotus position, to impress the pilgrims by his meditation. He was expecting some cash gift - money - from them Many from the attendant Darbars offered money to that pretender monk. At the end of that bee line was Sura Khachar Manasiya Khachar was accompanying him. He said to Sura Khachar, 'Darbar ! Have you seen that great saint ? Look at his meditative mood. He is fully concentrated to his inner most. Many horse-riders are passing by his place throwing clouds of dust with noise of hooves, but his concentration is unbroken. He has not opened his eyes.' Sura Khacahr was very smart. He whispered, 'That saint has not concentrated in divine, but in money.' "But Sura Khachar ! How could you say so ?" Sura Khachar whispered again, 'You stand there and wait for a practical demonstration. Don't speak any thing, except the answers to my questions.

Both of them came to the saint by alighting their horses. Sura Khachar looked at the Sadhu and said,

'Manasiya Khachar ! I Have never seen a saint like him. Look at his meditational concentration.' He then added :

'Manasiya ! I remember till this day the oath that I committed when I was bed-ridden in prolonged illness. I had committed that one when I was bed-ridden in illness. I had promised on oath to offer five rupees as a cash gift to a suitable Sadhu if I recovered. Now, why should I look elsewhere, when such a God fearing saintly soul is in front of us ? should I leave five rupees at the side of him ?'

Manasia said, 'Khachar ! This is main road and it is busy day and night. If Mahatma continued with such meditation and concentration without waking, someone will come to go away with such handsome gift.'

Sura Khachar said, 'But ..... Manasiya ! There is one possibility. By my good luck, if Mahatma yawned in between his meditative trip and opened his mouth, I may keep the cash in his mouth to fulfil my promise.

That hypocrite Sadhu thought, 'I will lose five rupees if not responded.' He opened his mouth to yawn in meditation. Sura Khachar took handful of soil and poured it swiftly in the mouth of hypocrite. Sadhu opened his eyes spitting muddy soil and said angrily, 'You cunning fellow ! Do you act like this to a Sadhu ?'

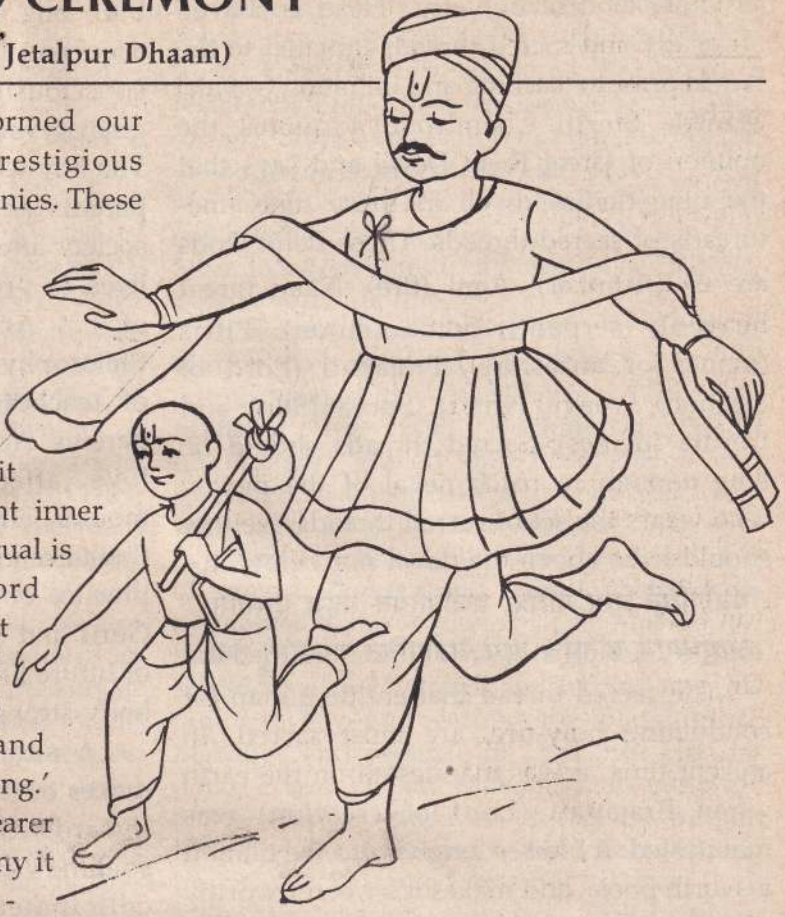
Sura Khachar said, 'You have left your house, village and society and forsook everything and now are you running after money ? What else you expect in your mouth?

Hypocrisy is an obstacle on the path of devotion and meditation. Such a soul becomes egoist about his meditation and devotion. Only alert souls are saved against these hazards. Those who are not careful shall be ruined by these enemies.

Dear Devotees ! Pray to God-Shri Hari and pray heartily for your protection against both these enemies.

SACRED THREAD CEREMONY

- K. P. Swami (Mahant, Jetalpur Dhaam)



Our ancestors have transformed our householder-ways into prestigious investitures or purification ceremonies. These investitures are the foundations and life line of our uniqueness and superiority. Ygyopavita or Upanayan is an investiture with the sacred thread. This ritual or ceremony is called 'Samskara.' 'Samskara' is a word of Sanskrit language and stands for inherent inner impressions. The sacred thread ritual is called Upanayana. The word `Upanayana again is a Sanksrit word. It is made of two distrinct words Upa+nayana 'Upa' stands for proximity or nearmess and 'Nayana' stands for 'taking along.' This Samskar takes a twice born nearer to his God. Sacred thread ceremony it self is a ritual for a spiritual birth - ☞ twice born, and qualifies a twice born for a study of the Vedas. Our sacred scriptures have covered almost all the aspects of human life under such Samskaras. These Samskaras should be performed with full enlightenment and in the right spirit with unbroken faith and trust.

As per Aryan culture, child begins now his education. Such Samskar inculcates discipline, self-restraint and firmness in a child, and by it he undersands and graspes the aim, value and secrets of human life. It is a symbol of the purity of thought, speech and actions.

The threads used as sacred-tread are hand spun. The set of sacred threads has three strings and each such string has well twisted three threads. Such sacred-threads are treated as most sacred-holy. It indicates self discipline and purity in his physical, mental and oral acts, also it is a symbol of para-physical and cosmit powers. It is a symbol of attributes of a twice-born. It is a sacred tie of purity.

Gayatri-Mantra and it's initiation is the core of this sacred ritual. The hymn it self is a most sublime prayer. 'Let the sanctifying rays and light of sun God illuminate our mind and inspire our thoughts and imagination. Sun-God himself is the another

form of supreme Lord, who is soul and sustainer God of universe.' Head is shaven off neatly and sacred threads initiated to the boy in prior to teaching and initiating Gayatri Mantra. Smriti Chandrodaya quotes the opinion of Great Rishi Deval and says that the nine deities dwell in those nine fine-threads of sacred-threads. Those demi Gods are ॐ (Aumkar), Agni (fire), Naag (great heavenly serpent), Soma (moon), Pitris (manes or ancestors), Prajapati (Lord of creation), Vaayu (wind), Surya (Sun) and Devata (deities). Sacred threads should be long enough to reach neval of the person who wears the set of sacred threads. Neither should it be above the neval nor below it.

यज्ञोपवितं परम पवित्रं, प्रजापतेयेत सहज पुरस्तात्,
आयुष्यमयं प्रतिमुंच शुभ्रं यज्ञोपवितं बलमस्तु तेजः

The sacred thread that entitle a man for conducting holy-fire, are most sacred. In ancient time, it was manifested on the earth when Prajapati (Lord of creation) was manifested. It blesses longivity to the man. It is worth pooja, and makes it's wearer worthy of doing pooja. It is bright. Such sacred thread bestows divine powers and eternal light to the boy who wears it. A Batuk (twice born boy) should do daily the Japa of the hymn of Gayatri. It is believed that those Bakukas attract sins, who have not done the Japa of Gayatri-hymn. At his mind one should think of three Lokas; namely earth, space and heaven, and should do Japa of the hymn of Gayatri to know the secrets of the three lokas. It is worship of the light - the ultimate knowledge. It is essense of the Vedas, that purifies innermost of a worshipper. It favours a worshipper by bestowing eternal light of pure consciousness.

A stick of Palash tree given to a twice-born boy, helps the holder of that stick in acquiring brahmic state – the state of pure consciousness. Upanayan Samskar holds greater value by social and cultural angle. The boy who had lived in protective fold of parents and society, leaves his home and society after initiation of sacred thread, and lives in protective and enlightening shelter of his Acharya - Guru. As per vedic Philosophy, Acharya is an amalgamated idol of teacher, father and mother. Like his parents, Acharya too protects the child with love, affection and enlightenment, and moulds him in an ideal man. The sacred thread ceremony, initiation of Gayatri-hymn, practice of celibacy, life in hermitage of his Guru and self-restraint are the foundations of future life as a householder and makes his body strong and healthy.

A strong and well founded childhood makes our life rich and meaningful. Respect towards Guru and elders tranform into sublime virtue of obedience and respect, and culminate in dedication, taste and concentration in study and learning. Early morning Japa of Gayatri-hym culminates into total submission to supreme and strengthens the will-power to solve complex riddles of human life.

Sacred thread ceremony holds spiritual and cultural importance. A man in ephemeral life-stage, becomes a companion of chosen ones. The Vedas open their secret doors for him. He is entrusted with the special rights and the specific duties, and psychologically, it impresses the man deeply for his newer role on the map of living world. It instils sense of responsibility, and makes him aware of his responsibilities.

THE RELATIONS IN SATSANG ARE EVERLASTING RELATIONS, ACT AT LORD SHRI HARI'S WILL

- Gandabhai M. Patel

A devotee who are reaslied Bahgwan with absolute knowledge shall be free from the entanglement of Maya, worldly wealth and temptations of the sense objects. He sees no happiness in worldly objects. He receives eternal happiness from the image of Bhagwan – Lord Shri Hari. He longs only for Satsang – holy company of saintly souls. Insults or priaises, heat or cold, refusal or welcome, whatever he received, he receives it happily and with contentment, because it is at will of God-Lord Shri Hari. He surrenders absolutely at the lotus feet of Shri Hari and obeys to the orders of God. He is most fortunate to receive eternal happiness at the sacred feet of God. No force on the earth deprive him of such divine happiness.



One such devotee was the chief secretary of Kutch–state - Shri Sundarji Suthar. He was a faithful devotee of Bhagwan Shri Hari. The saints of this Sampradaya were being harressed by the Vairagi Sadhu in Gujarat and Kathiawar, but in Kutch state, there was no trouble for this saints due to secretaryship of Sundarjibhai Suthar. Those saints in Kucth were treated most respectfully by the people, as honoured guests of Sundarji Suthar.

He was obeying to the orders and commandments of Shriji Maharaj. Once, when he was returning back on departure of a marriage party, he knew on his way about Lord Shri Hari comping at the residency Dosa Vania. He halted his cavalcade at the outskirts of village and came for Darshan of Shriji Maharaj. Shriji Maharaj said, 'Who are you ?' Sundarji Suthar said, 'Maharaj ! I am your servent.' 'What are the attributers of a servent ?' Asked Maharaj. 'Sundarji Suthar Submitted humbly, 'Maharaj.' Total obedience to the order of his Lord.' Shriji Maharaj then ordered him, 'Forsake these royal attires and ornaments. Shave off your beard and mostache. Be a saint and go away to Kashi.'

As was ordered so, Sundarji Suthar became a Sadhu and left for Kashi.

Shriji Maharaj looked at Muktanand

Swami who observed the happenings most carefully. Shriji Maharaj said to confirm, 'It is fairly well. Is n't it ?' 'Maharaj ! Acts of yours are always benedictory, but peace we have in Kutch shall be no more in days to come and there shall be alarming rise in troubles from the vairagis.' Muktanand Swami prayed humbly. Trusting in words of his disciple saint Shriji Maharaj called back Sundarji from his mission as a saint. As he came to Shri Hari, Shriji Maharaj asked him again, 'Who are you ?'

'I am your humble servent.'

'Then leave your sainthood, come back to origional state of householdership and act as a secretary to the state.'

Sundarji Suthar obeyed to the orders of Shriji Maharaj. Mahraj hugged him happily.

Shriji Maharaj camped once at the residency of Dosa Vania of village Bandhiya. He favoured Sundarji Suthar by his blissful darshan. Dosa Vania himself was a single minded devotee of Shri Hari. He was a humble servent of Shri Hari. Once Shriji Mahaaj asked, 'Pack off all your valuables.' Dosa Vania followerd the order and packed his valuables in a large bundle. 'Now carry that bundle on your head and follow me.' Shriji Maharaj ordered him again. Dosa Vania carried that large bundle on his head and walked with Shri Hari to follow the orders. Shriji Maharaj took him to the forest and stopped near an abandoned well. Shri Hari then directed him to throw away his bundle in that deep well. When he threw away the bundle, Shriji Maharaj took him to another village. When they came to that place, Shriji Maharaj asked him, 'Dosabhai ! What you felt on throwing away the bundle ? were you happy or sad ?'

Dosa Vania prayed politely 'Maharaj ! I felt nothing. There was nothing that belonged to me. It was yours and I acted to it as per your orders. I am your servent and you are my Lord.'

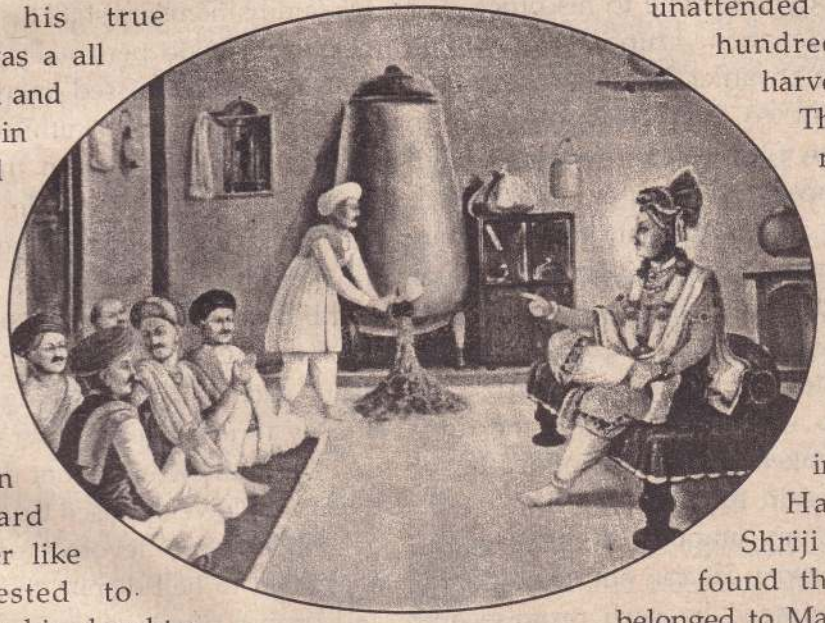
Dosa Vania lived with Maharaj for two days and on the third day Shriji Maharaj permitted him to leave for his native place. He also advised him to pick up that bundle from the well, when he reaches home. When he reached home, Dosa Vania found that there was large scale looting in the village and villagers were attacked by a gang of the robbers at night when he left with Shriji Maharaj. The almirahs and safe vaults at his house were broken by the robbers. Dosa Vania Remembered the favouring act of Shriji Maharaj and went to the forest to collect his bundle the of the wealth. This incident reinforced his with in Shri Hari.

The pilgrims gillagers from his place were returning back from a pilgrimage of Dwarika. The Pilgrims came to Gadhada. They knew that God of Dosa Vania resides at Gadhada. Pilgrims desired to do darshan of Shri Hari. they came to Shri Hari and did darshan with great devotional fervour. Shriji Maharaj showered his hearty love for their devotional fervour, and praised devotion and dedication of Dosabhai Sheth. The Pilgrims said, "Maharaj ! He is not a kind of person that you believed him. He is sunk up to his neck in householder chores and grossly enagaged in his business. But Shriji Maharaj opposed their view and introduced him as a true devotee of him. In a confirming tone Shriji Maharaj said that he was a obedient servent of him and acts according to orders of him. To prove his words, Shri Maharaj wrote a letter and handed it to the pilgirms to deliver

it to Dosabhai.

The pilgrims came to Bandhia and gave that letter to Dosabhai. As soon read the letter, he stopped business and trasactions, left his shop ajar and walked bare footed strait to Gadhada. He came to Gadhada and became a Sadhu of Shri Hari.

Such were the devotees, and such was their submission. They are very happy in such state. One such devotee was Mayaram Bhatt. Mayaram Bhatt belonged to Manavadar - a small town. He was a single minded devotee – a true devotee. Shriji Maharaj had mentioned his name in Shikshapatri to represent his true followers. He was a all time saintly soul and lived constantly in devotional fervour.



Mayaram Bhatt rode once his horse and went to some place. He Saw mother and her daughter on his home ward journey. Mother like woman requested to Bhattiji to carry his daughter on the horse-back as she was too weak to walk due to her prolonged illness. Bhattji alighted and allowed ailing girl to ride the horse. Bhattji held the rein and walked with the horse. People were astonished when they saw an elderly man pulling reins while walking on foot and an youthful damsel riding the horse ! They inquired in amusing way, 'What is this ? An old man walks and an youthful lady rides a horse !' The young lady retorted sarcastically, 'The time is such that every one desires to help an youthful lady. Who would like to help an elderly man ?'

Bhattji thought at the back of his mind, 'The woman who was favoured out of mercy, speaks such devilish words for a merciful act.' He was very sad for it, and made a firm resolute to never to have any contact even a verbal conversation – with any woman. He practised on his great vow for his whole life.

Shriji Maharaj and his saints came once to Manavadar and saw a farm unattended among the hundreds of harvested farms. The crop was ready for the harvest, but there was nobody to protect and harvest the crop. When they inquired with Haribhaktas, Shriji Maharaj found that the field belonged to Mayaram Bhatt. Bhattji had no time to harvest, due to his constant devotion and interruption free satsang. Shriji Maharaj then asked his saints to harvest the crop and visit the town later. Shri Hari's saints, parshadas and devotees got the crop harvested and went thereafter to Manavadar. Bhagwan takes care of him, who lives for Bhagwan and spends his life in devotion of God. Bhagwa takes total care of

such devotees and never leaves them in any inconvenience.

True devotees of God are firm and courageous. One such example is from Wadhwan. Kesar Miya of Wadhwan was a sepoy of Wadhwan state. He was a firm devotee of Shri Hari. He was ready to be beheaded for Shri Hari and Satsang. He was a faitfhful Satsangi. He served as Angrakshak of Shriji Maharaj and protected Satsangis at the time of Samaiyas and festivals. State secretary Bhanji Mehta of Wadhwan state, opposed Shri Hari and this Sampradaya. He acted always angrily to vex Kesar Mayam.

Once a Brahmin came to his office, and begged for a donation of rupees twenty to do pilgrimage of Dwarika. Bhanji Mehta asked that Brahmin to hurl dirty words to Swaminarayan if he desired to get handful of silver. That needy Brahmin readied himself to hurl dirty words for handful of money and that too in presence of Kesar Miya. Kesar Miya snarled at the Brahmin, 'Stop this nonsense. I will kill you by this sword if uttered slightest ill about my Lord.' The Brahmin who was ready to hurl the dirty words, was shaken now by fear of death, but Bhanji tried again to encourage him `Look. You can spit any amount of dirty words. Miya is my servent. He can not do any harm to you.' Encouraged by such promise and assurance, poor Brahmin spoke a bad word to malign the image of Shri Hari. But as soon he uttered the word, the sharp sword of Miya fell on the head of the Brahmin. Bhanji Karbhari tried to dismiss him from the state service and his office, but Miya said, 'To hell with your service. My Lord gives me heavenly pleasures. I don't wan't to serve under you. I am quiting at my own.'

Kesar Miya vacated his government quarter, carried his household luggage in abullock cart and came to the queen to seek permission to quit the job. But queen disagreed to him and rejected his resignation. He was a faithful servent of royal family since his three past generations. The queen was aware of his loyalty. She dismissed Bhanji from the post of state secretary and asked Miyan to serve the state. Lord Shriji Maharaj pleased to his faithful devotion and blessed him by gifting his personal nesklace. Shri Hari hugged him with eternal love. Miyan prayed to Maharaj and received a boon that his family members shall be consigned to the heavenly abode personally by Shri Hari as and when they passed away.

Such devotees - faithful devout souls - live happily in peace on the earth and are consigned to divine abode of Akshardahm when they leave their ephemeral being. Such singleminded devotees, such faithful Haribhakta, shall be benedicted eternally even if passed away in an untimely or an awkward death such as by drawning, by a scorpion bite, by a snake bite or under an attack of wild cat. The souls who are not devout souls and those who have opposed God or God's saints or religion and devotees of God, shall be consigned to hell dispite their natural death and proper rituals of their physical bodies.

Therefore, be firm and faithful in devotion and serve at the lotus feet of Shri Hari. Lord Shriji Maharaj himself has preached us in his Vachanamrit about the attributes of a true devotee and true devotion. He himself had mentioned the names of such singleminded and faithful devotees. Live happily at the benign refuge of Shri Hari and sing the praises of Him.

DON'T SHUT YOUR PALM

- Shastri Hari Swami

Friends ! This is not an ordinary story. It holds immense value and majesty. Though it is short and small, it holds valuable teaching. The story was told earlier by our great saint S.G. Nishkulanand Swami-dearest disciple of Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan.

Long ago, there was a snake charmer. He was used to catch snakes to tame them for his livelihood. Snake charmers are nomadic, settled nowhere. They earn livelihood by their street shows displaying movements of the snakes harmonised to the movement of his Morali. Morli is a musical instrument resembling some what to a flute. Besides the reptiles like snakes, they cutch and tame animals like monkeys and bears. They catch monkey babies which are very agile and smart, and display their dance and fun to the village audience. viewers donate money for the fun. Thus, the reptiles and animals caught and tamed by a snake charmer earn livelihood for the man who had imprisioned them ! To catch a snake and to tame it is not an easy job. Snakes are venomous reptiles. Snake bite kills living being. Its' teeth contain poison, but a snake charmer by his dexterity removes it's poisonous teeth and makes the reptile harmless. Baby Monkeys on other hand are playful, agile and smart. Innocent and very active. Though very small, it jumps branch to branch, tree to tree and roof to roof. One can not catch a baby-monkey, if he chased it. He will pant like a ballow, but shall not be able to catch it.

But the Snakecharmers catch such most agile baby-monkeys, chain then tight by a strong rope and shut them in a cage to tame.

One such Snakecharmer went to the forest to catch baby-monkeys. He saw a large group of monkeys, small and big. Happy and relaxed snake charmer looked forward to catch a few of them. He took a narrow necked metal pot, and kept grams in it. Monkeys love to have grams. He kept the pot at a suitable place and hid himself nearby. As the time passed, baby-monkeys formed their play group and came to the pot to satisfy their curiosity. They surrounded the pot and saw tasty grams of their choice. All five of them pushed their hands in the pot, took fistful grams in their closed palms. When they took hold of choicest grams, they pulled their hands too take away the grams. But the neck of the pot was to narrow, and their palms which were free and much flexible when they put if in the pot, were now fat and rigid due to the grams in their closed palms, therefore, despite push and pull among themselves around the pot, they were not able to pull out their hands. They may get their hands reliveed, if they free the gram sin their. But who would like to open the palm ? Instread of letting go grams in their hands, they tried to hold it firmly in their first and tried to pull the hands and the pot among themselves making faces and sounds at each other. It was a sort of tug of war. Meanwhile, came there the snake charmer and trapped them by his rope. Monkeys were helpless There was no scope of freedom from the trap of the snake charmer. They lost their freedom. Snakecharmer took them to his house and caged them in the separate cages for their individual training. He tamed them by physical punishment and a lesser amount of food. Helpless monkeys compromised with the situation, imbibed training lessions and began to dance at the will of snakecharmer.

While narrating this story, S.G. Nishkulanand Swami Says :

Cont. on Page 13

Roots of Contentment

- Prof. Mahadev Dhoriani



Mankind roams in the world in search of happiness, but very few among them receive real happiness. What is the cause behind it ? Happiness resides in heart, but not in the worldly objects. If he is contented at his heart, he will feel eternal happiness – wholesome happiness. A needy man shall not be a contented one and shall not be happy even if he got the wealth of whole world. Real and true happiness can not be attained without contentment.

"सहि भवति दरिद्रो यस्यास्ति
विशाल तृष्णः ।
मनसि च परितुष्टे कोऽर्थवान
कोवादरिद्रः ॥

One shall be poorest, if his desire and greed are unlimited. Who is wealthy and who is a poor if all are contented at their heart ?

"A contented man is the happiest man Contentment is the greatest wealth." The mind of the man is the meeting place of happiness and sorrows, pains and pleasures, peace and unrest. Our mind is highly volatile unsteady and mobile and runs constantly here and there in search of pleasures and joys. It's limitless expectations keep it busy in search of more pleasure and greater joys.

Contentment means, to be happy and fully satisfied on fulfillment of needs. The torments and agonies are the progeny of dissatisfaction. A dissatisfied man hangs between uncertainity of ulimited desires and limitless aspirations. Therefore a strong will for a progressive life should be founded well on a strong ground of total contentment. A man without contentment is like a deer running after a mirage in want of water. A contented man can not be made unhappy by anybody.

Contentment is the greatest wealth. Earn the wealth of contentment and defeat the inner enemies like greed and dissatisfaction and pane the path for real happiness worldly wealth becomes a destructive source of distress and calamity.

"હરિ કહે દ્રવ્ય ઘણું નઠારું,
કુબુદ્ધિ ને કલેશ વધારનારુ."

Nectar and poison both are available in the world. A contented man receives nectar of life. Peace is the fist step towards contentment and the last step lands in heaven. The light of self restraint and contentment illuminates our path of etermity. Ailment or sickness can not exist in environment of simplicity and contentment. Maya (eternal entity) is nothing but a faint shadow of pleasures. Whoever chased such a shadow have repented for their act of chasing. Dissatisfaction is like a hole in life boat of the man sailing in ocean of the worldly life. That hole named dissatiscation sinks our life-boat. Simplicity, satisfaction and strait forwardness are the keys of happy life. That is the supreme path in human life. Peace and contentment can not be attained by pleasures, but pleasure and happyiness can be attained by peace and contentment. One who enjoys every moment the contentment and blissful pleasure, shall be the happiest man.

No penance is greater than peace and tranquility. No pleasure is higher than satisfaction and contentment. No worry is greater than dissactisfaction. No ethical duty is superior than the religion of mercy and compassion. Blissful peace depend not on any means or sense object, but depends solely on self-restraint and contentment. Wealth can give comforts but not happiness. Anger, disharmony and needs are the causes of a revolution, but contentment and peace are the causes of eternal pleasure and happiness. Happiness can not be attained without contentment. Desires are the roots of pains. Contentment or satisfaction is a state of mind attained by receiving a desired object.

The wealth accumulated by untoward acts and sinful means can not deliver pure happiness and peace of mind. Demon king Ravana was most powerful and the wealthiest among the kings, but peace and pure pleasures were not available to him.

To be indifferent or to live idle due to unsatisfied needs or unfulfilled desires, is a sign of cowardice but not of contentment. Where exist the love, truth, values, decorum and mutual trust, exists there the ocean of contentment and the precious pearls of happiness and peace. Where exists faith trust and satisfaction, exists there absolute happiness and soulful contentment. Unfortunately, man is deaf to the call of his innermost - soul – consciousness. He never introspects.

The sun of eternal pleasure rises on by - study of the scriptures, scholarly debates, satsang, holy company of the saints, pilgrimage and tours, recitation of songs and poems, analytical study, Japa and good conduct. Therefore the roots of eternal happiness are rooted deep in our heart. Eternal happiness is rooted in peace, peace is rooted in contentment and contentment is rooted in perfection of an unpurturbed soul. Ephemeral pleasures and such happiness are in material objects and to enjoy such pleasure and joys is an unque art of human mind. Those engrossed in material happiness and sense objects will end their lives in pains and poverty in the births to come. A pure mind, a healthy body, soulsful love and contentment are the attributes of a true devotee of God. To restrain and control our mind is the first step forward on our path of salvetion. Self contentment is deeply rooted in spiritual life.

A scent is not an object to sell, but a substance to be distributed freely. Pleasure and happiness are kind of scents. Those are such great in their effect that they spread the fragrance many folded in comparison to the area of your distribution. We feel tiredness in acquiring pleasure and happiness, but we never feel any tiredness in giving pleasure and joys to others. It shall be our wealth and prosperity if we had all the desired things, but when we live without such desired things, than it is our strength. This the root of contentment.

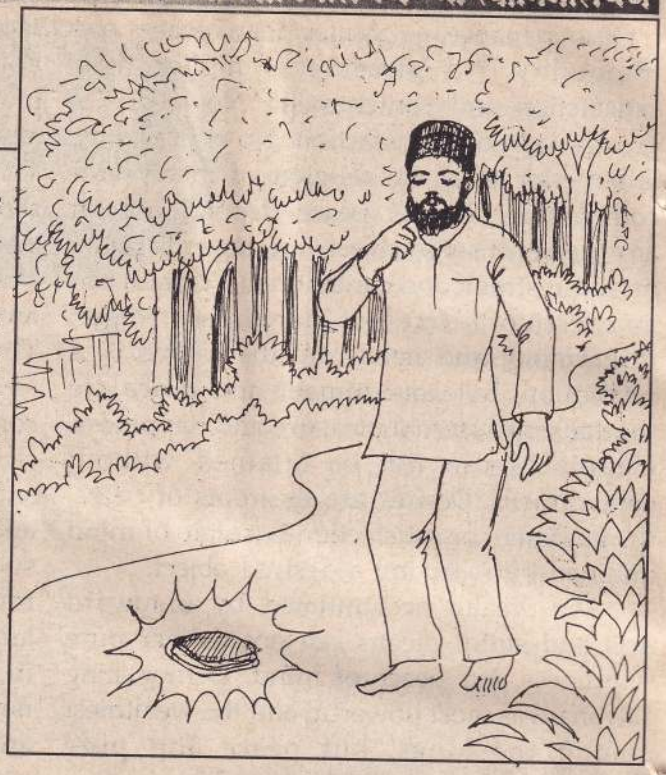
Cont. From Page 11

"મુઠ્ઠી વાળી જેમ મરકટે, ચપટી ચણાને કાજ,
નિષ્કુળાનંદ ફંદ પડ્યો ગળે, પરવશ થયો પશુરાજ."

The monkeys, who roamed and played freedly in the forest and on the trees and had at free will the freth fruits and forest products of various kind, became slave of the greed of the man. Therefore, if you desire to be happy forever, forsake the temptetions of mind. We will have to let to the temptations, our inherent nature and shakles of Maya. We will have to walk firmly and in full faith on the path paved and directed by Lord Swaminarayan Bhagwan. Bhajam, Kirtan and Satsang will help us to please our God.

REWARD OF RECTITUDE

- Vishwaprakash Swami (Disciple of Mahant Shastri Atmaprakashdasji)



This is an old story. Long ago there was a man. He lived in a small town – Dhoraji. He was a muslim – Khan Moosa. Khan Moosa went once to Bagasara. The vehicles like car and scooters were not available in those days. He travelled by foot. On his way near Vaghania, his foot dashed with some heavy objects. When he looked at that object, he found that it was a money purse. He took the purse. It was heavy. Out of curiosity, he opened the purse and found valuable jewllery stuffed in it. Being a poor man, he tempted for a while to keep the prized jewellery for the self and family, but in second thought he shut the purse and thought that almighty was seeing everything. He repented for his sinful thoughts. Village Vaghania was very near from that place. He came to the village and went to the house of village-head. He described everything to the Mukhi-village head, and showed him the purse and jewellery. Village-head forgot his duty and desired to share the stuff between two. But Khan mossa was very firm in his resolute.

He left the house of Mukhi and came back to his way to Bagasara. He then assumed that purse may be of royal family or a courtier. It's owner might have lost it during his trip to Bagasara. In circumstances like that he may recur and may send someone to check the road. With such assumption, he made up his mind to walk on and wait for an inquiry. His assumption was perfectly in order. He sawa horse rider rushing swiftly from the direction of Bagasara. Khan Moosa stopped him when the rider came closer to him. In his brief dialogue, Khan Moosa found that the purse was lost by Ali Malek. He handed over the purse to the horse rider and asked him to give it to Ali Malek. Jewellery belonged to the queen of the state. Horse rider throught for a while and asked Khan Moosa to go with him to meet the owner. Khan Moosa came to the palace with him. Horse-rider submitted humbly the story of the lost jewellery. Queen desired to honour him with a suitable gift, but Khan Moosa refused humbly such a royal favour. He

Cont. on Page 16

Panchamrit : The Five Sacred Nectars

- Jayendra Gohil

Panchamrit is an integral part and most important sacred object in our Pooja-Vidhi, holy-fire, Parayan-sessions and other religious rituals.

Prasad of Panchamrit is like the nectar strengthening soul, mind and body. It is made of five sacred and natural imgridients. Such well composed Panchmrits, submitted first to our God to transform it into sacred – Prasadam and distributed as prasadam at the end of religious event or rituals. Goras – milk product is the core of the Panchamrit.

Tulsi, Amala, Pippul and Galo are treated as purest and holy objects. In similar way, the caw is honoured as a holy animal – a blessed gift from divine. Milk products from caw-milk are nutritious not only for elemental body, but stregthens equally the mind, brain, innerself and consciousness. The value of the Panchamrit should be appreciated on bases of these extraordinary attributes of the milk-products of cow milk. It is not so costly and is available easily everywhere. Water and sugar cubes may be added suitably to increase the quantity of the prasad. The use of Panchamrit with such knowledge, shall be helpful in protection of cows and cow-breeding.

The order of ingredients in the Panchamrit : Five ingredients are used in Panchamrit : (1) Milk (2) Curd (3) Pure butter oil – Ghee (4) Honey and (4) Sugar cube. Milk shall be in larger quantity in accordance to the order of listing and sugar-cubes shall be in lesser quantity. Quantity of Panchamrit should be determined on bases of number of the people among whom it is to be distributed. Water and sugar may be added reasonably to increase the quantity of Panchamrit and the leaves of sacred Tulsi may be added at last when Panchamrit is ready to be sereved to God. Following hymn should be chanted at the time of composing Panchamrit :

The hymn of presenting milk : No object is whiter than milk. The milk in Panchamrit, removes the dirt of past sins and purifies mind, heart and soul. It promotes virtuous ways. It leads the soul on a virtuous path :

ॐ पयः पृथिव्यां पयऽओषधीषु
पयो दिव्यन्तरिक्षे पयोधाः,
पयस्वतीः प्रदिशः सन्तु महम्.

The hymn of adding curd : The curd is cool and thick by nature. It therefore, instills subtle attributes like maturity, coolness, calmness, steadiness and balance :

ॐ दधिक्राणो अकारिषं, जिष्णोरश्वस्य
वाजिनः,
सुरभि नो मुखा करत्प्राणऽ, आयु छं षि
तारिषत्.

The hymn of adding butter oil : Butter oil is liquid, oily and fragrant. The use of Ghee (butter oil) promotes virtues of love, politeness, decorum, happiness and peace :

ॐ घृतं घृतपावानः पिबत वसां
वसापावनः,
पिबतान्तरिक्षस्य हविरसि स्वाहा,
दिशः प्रदिशऽआदिशो विदिश, उद्दिशो
दिग्भ्यः स्वाहा.

The hymn of adding honey : Honey is a natural product. It improves health, prevents

illness and desease and purifies body. Man should use at maximum the natural products in his sustainance. Honey is added in Panchamrit with this specific purpose :

ॐ मधुवाता ऽऋतायते, मधुक्षरन्ति,
सिन्धवः ।
माध्वीर्नः सान्त्वोषधीः । ॐ मधु
नक्तमुतोषसो,
मधुमत्पार्थिव छं रजः । मधुद्यौरस्तु ना पिता ।
ॐ मधुमान्नो वनस्पतिः, मधुमो अस्तु सूर्यः ।
माध्वीर्गावे भवन्तु नः ॥

The hymn of adding Tulsi-leaves in Panchamrit : Panchamrit it self is a sacred composition of pure natural ingredients. Tulsi leaves are pure and holy. It makes our body holy and pure, and purifies our mind. It is absolute divinity and holiness. It is considered as nectar on the earth made available in a form of leaves and branches :

ॐ या ओषधीः पूर्वा जाता, देवेभ्यस्त्रियुगं पुरा ।
मनै नु बभ्रूणामहछंशतं धामनि सप्त च ॥

The pradama of Panchamrit Should be received on the palm of right hand. Following hymn should be chanted at the time of consuming prasad :

ॐ माता रुद्राणां दुहिता वसूनां,
स्वसादित्यानिमृतस्य नाभिः ।
प्र.नुं. वोच थिकितुषे जनाय, मा
गामनागामदितिं वधिष्ट ॥

Such prasadam should be consummed with the due respect and with absolute faith in Shri Hari.

Cont. From Page 14

took "the tiffin of honesty" and came to Mumbai to earn livelihood. He got a service. His master was a businessman. After same days, he went casually to an auction. A walking stick with a decorative design in gold, was on auction. Gold was very cheap, in those days sold at rupees twenty per ten grams.

Khan Moosa tried his luck and tried humbly at a very low bid of rupees three and a half. But there were no other bidders to stake a higher bid and walking stick too was in very bad shape - stained and dirty. In absence of a higher bid, he got the stick in the three and a half ruppes. He went to his master and showed the stick. His seth was in a meeting with a jeweller. That jeweller listend to the talk between Khan Moosa and his master, inspected walking stick and found a large diamond hunged to the decorative chain. He rubbed the diamond, confirmed it's uniqueness, and tried to assess it's value. But seth was very smart. In his tactful way, he discouraged the jeweller.

Seth and Khan Moosa rode a horse cart and came to a shop. This jeweller was a good friend of his master. He inspected the diamond, got it polished, assessed the value of diamond and gold and priced it. Ultimately they settled the deal in twenty thousand rupees. Seth himself took personal care and got a shop for Khan Moosa. He set the business for him. Khan Moosa earned wealth and fame on strength of his honesty. He spent his retired life at Dhoraji and donated freely to needy people. Still he is famous in Dhoraji for his honesty and charity.

News And Notes From Shri Narnarayandev Desh

AHMEDABAD REGION

Jal-Jheelani Samaiya at Ahmedabad

The procession of Lord Ganapatiji is an encient tradition of this temple. The First Acharya of this diocese - H.H. Acharya Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri had stenghtned this grand tradition by conducting religious procession of Lord Ganapatiji. Jal-Jheelani Shoba-yatra of Lord Ganapatiji was organized from this temple in blessed presence of Future Acharya, H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Koshalendraprasdji Maharajshri and Respected Bal Lalji Maharajshri. Mahant Swami, Saints and Utsavia Mandal accompanied His holiness. A very large number of devotees have participated in this grand shobha-yatra. Shoba Yatra began from this temple at noon (1-15 p.m.) with Poojan Archan of Lord Ganaptiji. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri and Respected Bal Lalji Maharajshri led this grand procession through Lambeshwar pol, Relief road and Shahibaugh area to reach Narayan Ghat.

Lord Ganapatji was worshipped heartily at Narayanghat with the dissolution-Poojan by Respected Bal Lalji Maharajsrhi. Lord Ganapatiji in his idol form was swung in water repeatedly and with mixed feelings of happiness and sorrow. A Sabha was organized on this occasion and memorized mantra – kirtans were recited by Respected Bal Lalji Maharajshri. Dhoon-kirtans were presented by Utasavia mandal. The Sabha was transformed thereafter in a religious procession to come back to Kalupru Temple. Prasadi of banana was distributed to the visitors and devotees at the temple.

(Kothari Satyaprakashdas)

Shravan Rudrabhishekam of Lord Mahadevji at Prasadi Temple of Nava Vaas

विष्णु शिवो गणपति, पार्वति च दिवाकरः ।
एता पूज्या तथा मान्या, देवता पंच मामकैः ॥

These five forms of God are to be respected and worshipped by the stasangis of this sect. Our first Acharya Maharaj, H.H. Acharya Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj had installed with his blessed hands the icon form of Lord Mukteshwar Mahadev at the sacred land of Nava Vaas, which was sanctified repeatedly by blessed touch of holy foot prints of Lord Shri Hari. The temple at present exists at Mahadev's compound located at front side of the main gate of our temple.

Laghu-Rudra and Abhishekam was presented on the fourteenth day of the dark half of this shravan by the blessed hands of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri in presentee of Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji and saints. The event was organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Hundreds of the devotees were present on this occasion. The event was organized early in the morning when first rays of sun welcomed H.H. Lalji Maharajshri at this prasadi place. H.H. lalji Maharajshri graced the inner temple and presented Panchamrit Abhishek, Bilipatras and Arghya to Lord Mukteshwar Mahadev amidst chants of Rudra-Mantras. The events were managed by Mahdev Mitra Mandal. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri blessed the devotees, saints and Mahadev Mitra Mandal for their devotional fervour. Besides the Laghu-Rudra, Maha Aarti of one hundred and eleven lamps, Pushpa Mala (flower garland) and Naivedyan was presented to please Lord Mukteshwar Mahadev.

Lord Shri Hari had showered his hearty blessings on this historical city by his repeated visit of Ahmedabad. Blessed visits of Shri Hari have been narrated in our religious books published by this temple. "Shri Hari at Ahmedabad" and "Amadavadman Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan", these too books have described the holy events in more details. Mukteshwar Mahadev at Nava-Vaas is a prasadi place of Shri Hari. The icon of Lord Mahadev was installed by H.H. Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri. Lord Shri Hari had displayed his divine powers and leelas at the sacred land of Kankaria lake. H.H. Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri had installed idol form of Lord Balswaroop Kashtabhanjandev at the sacred

land of Kankaria. Personal deity of Dharmkul has become easily approachable for the devotees and followers of Dharm-kul. H.H. Acharya Ayodhaprasadji Maharaj had installed idol of Lord Kashtabhanjadev at the official residence of Acharya Maharajshri, located at Asarva Ahmedabad. This place – Swaminarayan Baugh is transformed these days in a Gurukul. Lord Kashtabhanjandev installed by the first Acharya of this diocese blesses the devotees from his abode at Narayan Ghat. Narayan Ghat of Sabarmati is a prasadi place of Shri Hari.

H.H. Acharya Maharajshri presents Poojan Aarti to his family-deity by visiting these places every year on Hanuman Jayanti day (auspicious fourteenth day of the dark half of Ashwin). We too should do darshan of these holy shrines to earn blessings of Hanuman dada and pleasure of Shri Hari. *(Kothari Swami Satyapraksashdasji)*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Himatnagar

A seminar of the conveners of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandals of Himatnagar district was organized here at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Himatnagar with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The conveners of Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal is every village and town of this district were present at this seminar.

The session was inaugurated most religiously by presenting Dhoon-Kirtans to Lord Shri Hari. Self introduction and progess report of the local unit was presented by the conveners themselves. There was unanimous voice for expanding satsang activities in this district. In right spirit they anoucned collectively their dedicated service as a faithful soldier of Lord Narnarayandev diocese and resolved unitedly to introduce doctrines of Swaminarayan Sampradaya in growing generation of society. They resolved to conduct satsang sabhas in each village and town of Himatnagar district and targeted one-to-one contact with every youth to spread message of universal welfare of mankind promoted by Shri Swaminarayan Bhagwan.

Keeping in view the core of the seminar deliberations, the Sabhas were organized at Idar and Prantij under direct guidance of Mahant Swamis of respective temple. The Sabha at Prantij was addressed jointly by Mahant Swami Madhavdasji and Devotee Shri Udayanbhai Maharaj (Visnagar). Himatnagar temple organizes such Sabhas on each Sunday and each ekadashi day of the month and devout members of N.N.D.Y.M. condcuts such group meeting in villages of Himatnagar area. Satsang activities are progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

(Mahant Swami, Himatngar)

Institutional News from H.H. Acharya Devendraprasadji Kelvani trust

Shri Sahajanand Sec. And Hr. Sec. School (English)

Following Students of this school have secured merit position in sports and physical training :

1. The Km. Mansi Vyas (Std : 11) : Selected for state level tennis.

2. The team of the Boys and the team of the Girls have secured separately the championship in Kabaddi (below 19 years)

3. The Kho-Kho team secures ward level championship.

4. The boy's team secures Runners-up position at the state level. Sachin Babar, Shalin Joshi, Shrijit Kurup, and Hassan Ali have been selected at the state level.

5. Km. Urvi Maheta, Km. Khushbu Maheta and Riddhi Babar have been selected at the state level. They have joined the state level training camp.

H.H. Lalji Maharajshri conveyes his hearty blessings to the sports-teacher Shri Prakashbhai Gajjar and the students for their all round progress.

(Principal)

Shri Sahanand Shishu Mandir and Primary School (Gujarati)

Following Students of this school have performed very well at C.R.C. Level :

First Position

1. Km. Nishi Surti, Harsh Patel and Harshil Patel in the field of organic menure.

2. Km. Shruti Patel, Nisarga Soni and Bimal Jalani in the field of mathematical models.

3. Km. Khanjan Patel and Mokshada Poojara in the area of ozone gas.

4. Sukani Shah and Juhi Shah, in the area of fiber optic.

Second Postion

1. Km. Bhoomi Bhatt and Parth Patel – energy pyramid

2. Tarang Malani and Bhumi Patel – Vaccination

H.H. Lalji Maharaj has conveyed his hearty blessings to these students. *(Head Master)*

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Chhapaiya (U.P.)

Three days Parayan-Sessions were conducted here to recite Shri Ghanshyam Bal Leela Charit. The Parayan-Katha was hosted by Devout family of Shri Khimji Shamji, Jayanti Shamji and Dharmendra Shamji in memory of Devotee (Late) Shamji Valji Gorasia. The sessions were organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The seat of the main speaker of the Parayan-Katha was graced by S.G. Shastri Swami Hariswaroopanandji, and Satsang Sabhas were conducted by Swami Bhaktiprakashdasji. This was a religious feast of Shravana and devotees Shri Manubhai (Kubadthalwala), Shri Jashubhai (Kankariawala) and Shri Ratibhai (Medawala) were present on this occasion with other devotees from Ahmedabad and Gujarat.

The festive event of Janmashtami was celebrated with devotional zeal and as per convention. Thousands of devotees from this area were present on this occasion with the devotees from jarapala, Viramgam, Balasinor, Rajkot, Calcutta, Visavadia, Bhadra, Botad, Surendrangar, Surat, Junagadh, Vaapi, Mumbai, Navsari, Pune and Trent. The devotees were come from the near by Villages like Surivere, Nepada,Teenva, Gorapande, Bhasti Naurangabad and Gaughat. Dhoon, Kirtans and Raas-Garbas were presened to please Lord Shri Hari. birthday Aarti was present to Lord Shri Krishna and Prasadam of Panchjeeri was distributed to the devotees.

(Shastri Bhaktiprakashdasji

Kankaria Rambaugh Temple

The land of Kankaria is sacred land. It is prasadi place of Lord Shri Hari. Lord Shriji Maharaj himself dwelled in this area and had conducted feast of the sweet dishes for thousands of Brahmins. Our first Acharya the Maharaj of Shri Narnarayandev diocese H.H. Ayodhyaprasadji Maharajshri had installed at this place the idol of Lord Balswaroop Kashtabhanjandev and had installed foot-prints of Lord Shriji Maharaj to help the devotees in devotion and service of Shri Hari. H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri has installed here icon of Lord Mahadev. Our Swaminarayan Mandir of Kankaria has become thus a Prasadi Shrine.

Lord Siddheshwar Mahadev at Kankaria temple has received Mahabhishekam on auspicious last day of Shravana. H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Koshalendraprasdji Maharajshri graced this holy shrine and presented Mahabhishekam to Lord Mahadevji with 2008 lotus flowers and one lakh and twentyfive thousand Bilipatras. The sacred gift of prasadi flowers and sacred leaves were distributed to the devotees by Lalji Maharajshri himself. The holy event was hosted by Shri Harikishnadas Pitambardas Thakkar and his family. They had earned the blessings of Mahadev and pleasure of Lord Shri Hari by doing Poojan of Lord Mahadevji. Events were planned under guidance of Mahant Swami. Holy fire was concluded by H.H. Lalji Maharaj by presenting sacred coconut to Fire God. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad), Mahant Swami Shastri Atmaprakashdasji (Jetalpur) and celibate Swami Rajeshwaranandji (Principal priest of Lord Narnarayandev) were present on this occasion with the Mahants, saints and devotees. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced thereafter an occasional Sabha and blessed his devotees by explaining glory and majesty of holy-fire and Maha Rudra Abhishekam. Mahaprasad was distributed by the temple at the end of programme.

Janmashtami was celebrated as per tradition and late evening Satsangi of Dhoon-Kirtan and Raas-Garba was presented by the ochchhavia Mandal. Birthday Aarti was presented at midnight to Lord Shri Krishna and prasad of Panchamrit-Panchjeeri was distributed to the hundreds of devotees.

(Paresh Bhagat)

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Youth Satsang Camp at Jaipur (Rajasthan)

Satsang activities are progressing very well in the region of Rajasthan with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. A Satsang camp was organized at Jaipur by H.H. Lalji Maharajshri to enlighten the youth about doctrines of this great sect. The camp was organized at the holy place of Salasar, some 200 k.m. away from Jaipur. This Satsang of two days was inaugurated on 8-8-2004 with attendance of 150 youths in blessed presence of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. S.G. Swami Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji (Jetalpur Sanskrit Vidyapeeth) and group of his saints were present on this occasion to enlighten the campers. Reasoning besed debate and question-answer sessions were conducted in this package of two days. besides the Katha-Varta and discourses on various religious topics. Shri Udayanbhai Maharaj (Visnagar) was present at these sessions. The camp was organized by Mahant Swami Devswaroopdasji (Jaipur Temple) with the help from the saints and Satsangis. Senior devotees of Rajasthan region – Shri Manubhai Bapudas, Manubhai Mulchandbhai, Thakorbhai and others were present at this camp. The youths from Jaipur have resolved to conduct Monday-satsang Sabhas at Jaipur temple and sundays Satsang at the residence of the devotees at Jaipur. Sabha-Sessions under this plan are being conducted regularly under direct guidance from the saints. Satsang activities are progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. *(Sadhu Bhaktinandandas)*

Satsang Sabha at Beawar and Sumerpur (Raj.)

The Satsang is progressing very well in this area with the due blessings of H.H. Achrya Maharajshri. Group Satsang and satsang Sabhas are being conducted regularly in remote areas of Rajasthan. One such Satsang Sabha was on 7-8-04 at Sumerpur. This was an afternoon session held at the residence of a devotee – Shri Kanubhau patel. Shri Kanubhai Patel had earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting this feast of ultimate knowledge. Late evening Sabha was organized at the residence of Shri Arunbhai Patel at Beawar. Satsangis were benefitted by darshan of H.H. Lalji Maharajshri at these Sabhas. Dhoon, Kirtans, discourses and Katha-Varta were presented in these sessions to please Lord Shri Hari. Local devotees have desired more of such satsang sessions.

(Mahant K.P. Swami)

Patosava at Jaipur Temple

Lord Narnarayandev dwells in this temple located in central circle of chand Bazar, pink-city - Jaipur. The palace the transformed these days into a splendid temple, was donated by the secretary of the Jaipur State some nity years ago. The donation of Palace was received with compassion by H.H. Acharya 1008 Shri Vasudevprasadji Maharajshri and Palatial structure was transformed instantly into a palace-temple by installing idols of God in the palace. Thus the devout families of non-resident Gujaratis of Jaipur were favoured by H.H. Vasudevprasadji Maharajshri with the blessed darshan of Shri Hari. One year back, the temple building was renovated with addition of a wing of Guest house and a Sabha Mandapam. Major work of renovation and construction has been completed and H.H. Acharya Maharajshri had re-installed the idols of God in the renovated temple. The pilgrims and international tourist shall be served with better camping facilities inclusive of a/c. rooms and pilgrimage plans. The first patotsava after reinstallation was organized on 3-9-04 by Mahant Shastri Devswaroopdasji Swami (Disciple of : S.G. Shastri Purushottamprakashdasji) H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced this place and spent two days with his devotees in Jaipur. Patotsava events were hosted by Shri Thakorbhai Patel and his family (Jaipur) to earn the pleasure of Shri Hari. Mahant Swami Shastri Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad), S.G. Shastri Purushottam-prakashdasji (Jetalpur Sanskrit Vidyapeeth), Swami Shastri Ghanshyamprakashdasji of

Sarangpur (Trustee of Vadtal Dhaam) and other saints were present on this occasion. The events of first Patotsava were majestic and colourful like grand celebration of installation ceremony. Maha Pooja, group Maha Pooja, Satsang Sabhas, Katha Varta Satsang, Dhoon-Kirtan Sessions and other such events were organized on this religious occasion. Maha Pooja rituals were conducted by Shastri Ishwarjeevandasji (Mahant Swami, Dhariawad Temple).

(Sadhu Bhaktinandandas)

Adhik-Shravan Celebrations at Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Gandhiangar (Sector-23)

Daily Japa of one hour duration was organized here for Adhik-Sharavana with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The saints and devotees were inspired by S.G. Dhyani Swami for these blissful Japa sessions. Mahabhishekam was received by Lord Thakorji on concluding day of the Japa sessions.

Hindola-Utsava was celebrated by presenting beautiful Hindolas made of the objects like dry-fruits, mirrors, toys etc.

Shrimad Bhagwat Parayan was organized in the first week of Adhik shravan and religious events like Janmotsava, Goverdhan Utsava and others were celebrated with devotion during Katha Sessions. Shri Hasmukhbhai Chauhan and family have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Prayan-Satsang. One such Parayan-Katha was organized to narrate Katha of the "twenty four Gurus of Guru Dattatreya." Guru Katha was narrated with devotion by S.G. Shastri Swami Devotees were benefited by these devotional programmes.*(Kothari Babubhai Patel)*

Vehlal Temple

Parayan-Katha (22-8-04 to 26-8-04) was organized here under the blessed orders from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The feast of ultimate knowledge was organized by the saints under inspiration from Swami Chaitanyananddasji. The seat of the reader-priest was graced by S.G. P.P. Swami (Junior).

Charmful Hindolas of various objects were presented to Lord Thakorji during devotinal days of the sacred Adhika and holy Shravan. An evening session of Kirtan-Bhakti was conducted for the four hours durations on date 11-8-04 by the devotees from Bayad.

(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)

Makakhad-Jetalpur Padayatra

A religious walk from Makakhad to Jetalpur was conducted from Makakhad by the member devotees of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal. The event was organized under the blessed orders from H.H. Lalji Maharajshri. The members of Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal were inspired by Shastri Ramkrisnadasji and Shastri Shrijiprakashdasji. Pada Yatris came to Ahmedabad on auspirious full moon day of Bhadrapada and did darshan of Lord Narnarayandev. They then, walked on foot to Jetalpurdham and did Darshan of Lord Revti Baldevji Harikrishna Maharaj, residing at the abode of Jetalpurdhaam H.H. Lalji Maharajshri has conveyed his hearty blessings to the devout pilgrims. *(Dahyabhai C. Chaudhari, N.N.D.Y.M. Maka .Kahnd)*

Karmashakti Temple (New Naroda)

A grand Satsang Sabha was organized here to celebrated Shri Krishan Janmashtami. The Sabha was organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. An educative one-act play was presented on this occasion to explain principles of this great sect. Besides this play, Katha-Varta and Kirtans were presented to sing the praises of Shri Hari. Birthday Aarti was presented at midnight to celebrate manifestation of Lord Shri Krishna. A large number of devotees have participated in these devotional sessions. *(Gordhanbhai Sitapara)*

Vadu-Muli Padayatra

Devotees from Vadu have conducted Pada-Yatra to do darshan of Lord Radhakrishandev Harikrishan Maharaj residing at divine abode of Muli Dhaam. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced Vadu with his retinue of the saints and blessed the Pada-Yatris for their devotional fervour. A special Satsang was organized on this event of devotional walk to do pilgrimage of Muli Dhaam. H.H. Lalji Maharajshri graced the Sabha and received Poojan-Aarti from the pilgrims and blessed the pilgrimage on 22-9-04. Padayatris came to Muli on the tenth day of their Pada-Yatra and did darshan of Shri

Radhakrishandev Harikrishna Mahaaj at Muli Dhaam. *(Pravin Patel – Shraddha Cassettes)*

Dipawali Annakut of Adhik-Shravan

Adhik Shravan Diwali Annakut was presented to Gods dwelling in Shri Swaminarayan Mandir and annakut festival was celebrated with devotional fervour.

Annakut of Lord Narnarayandev was hosted by Dr. Kanubhai Engineer and family. Annakut of Lord Radhakrishnadev was hosted by Shri Maganllal Liladhar and family. Annakut of Shri Dharm Bhakti Harikrishna Maharaj was hosted by Dr. Harshadbhai Jhinjuvadia (on behalf of devout soul (late) Bhalja Saheb). Annakut of Lord Balswaroop Ghanshyam Maharaj was hosted by Shri Babubhai Manilal Shah (Prantij). Annakut of Lord Ghanshyam Maharaj dwelling in Rang Mahol and Haveli temple was hosted by Bakulaben (On behalf of Chandrahas Rasiklal Derasari). Satsangi hosts have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari and the blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri for their devotional fervour.

(Kothari Swami Brahmviharidasji)

MULI REGION

Hindola at Muli Dhaam

Lord Radhakrishnadev of Muli Dhaam was installed ceremoniously amidst devotional fervour by Lord Shriji Maharaj himself. Grand Hindola festival was celebrated here in blissful presence of Lord Radhakrishnadev Harikrishna Maharaj. Hindola festival was celebrated for full two months by presenting new Hindola every day. Twelve Hindola were presented together at Haveli temple to celebrate five religious days of the month. The saints and devotees were encouraged and guided by Mahant Swami Shastri Mukundprasaddasji Swami in designing beautiful Hindolas of various objects. S.G.K.P. Swami, Narottam Bhagat, Hariprasad Swami, Nandkishor Swami, Pankajbhai Parikh and youths from Ratanpar Satsang have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by their loudable services in construction of Hindola. *(Khodubha, Muli)*

Ratanpar (Surendranagar) Temple

Beautiful Hindolas were presented here to Lord Thakorji with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The saints and devotees were inspired and guided by Mahant Swami Shastri Mukundprasaddasji (Muli) in formation of magnificent hindola. Hindola festival was lasted for full two months and new Hindolas were presented everyday to please Lord Thakorji. Twenty one hinodlas were presented together on the five festive days of the month. Hindolas of currency notes and that of extra large idols have created great attraction. Shri Kalu Bhagat, Pankajbhai, celibate Swami Suryaprakashanandji and members of Yuvak Mandal have earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by preparing attractive Hindolas.

(Babubhai Patel)

Satsang Sabha at Shiyani

This small village of Shiyani is a prasadi place of Lord Shri Hari. A huge Satsang Sabha was organized here on the sacred land of Shiyani. Mahant Swami Shastri Mukundprasaddasji (Muli), Bhakti Swami, Brahmchari Swami and Bhakti Swami have graced the Sabha with the due blessings from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Dhoon, Kirtan, Katha Varta and devotional discourses were presented to explain glory and majesty of Shri Hari, Dharmkul and this sect. Shri C.T. Patel has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by hosting Satsang Sabha. This special Satsang has helped the Satsangis in their devotional ways.

(Ghanshyambhai)

Satsang Sabha at Bhalgamda

A satsang Sabha was conducted here at our temple to strengthen Satsang activities in this area. The sabha was organized with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri, and Mahant Sami and saints from Muli Mandir were come to guide the aspirants. Dhoon, Kirtans and Katha-Varta Satsang was conducted to sing the praises of Shri Hari, Sampradaya and Dharmkul. The villagers from Bhalgamda and nearby villages have been benefited by this special Satsang. *(Hakubha)*

Hindola at Surendranagar Temple

With the due blessings of H.H. Acharay Maharajshri and with guidance from Mahant Swami Shastri Premajivandasji, the festival of

Hindoals was celebrated here during sacred months of Adhika and Shravana. In the last week of these sacred months, the twelve hindoals of uniuqe art work were presented to gather to please Shri Hari. the hindolas were made of currency notes, grains, dryfruits, pulses, thermocol, toys etc. S.G. Swami Shastri Satyaswaroopdasji has earned the favour of Shri Hari by guiding the devotees and saints in formation of artful hindolas.

Satsangi Jivan Parayan was organized during sacred months of Shravan. The seat of the reader priest was graced by Shastri Swami Premvallabhdasji. Shrimad Bhagwat Dashama Skandha Parayan was organized (seven days) w.e.f. 8-9-04 to sing divinity and majesty of Lord Shri Krishna. The seat of the reader-priest was graced by S.G. Shastri Swami Satyaswaroopdasji. Devotees have been benefitted spiritually by these devotional events.

(Shailendra Jhala)

Poojan-Archan of the threshold pedestal of new Swaminarayan Mandir at Surendrangar

A new temple is being constructed at Surendrangar with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. This temple under Shri Radhkrishnadev of Muli Dhaam, is constructed in pink stone of Rajasthan at the cost of rupees three crore. It is decorated with traditional sculpture and intricate motif work in pink stone and pure marble.

Threshold pedestalof inner temple has been sculptured from white marble. Future Acharya H.H. Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharajshri graced the shrine on auspicious Janmashtami day and presented vedic poojan-Archan to the threshold pedestal of the inner temple. Respected Bal Lalji Maharajshri and Respected Vahuji Maharaj were present on this occasion to bless the Satsangi ladies. The saints from Maha Mandirs and devotees from Surendranagar district were present on this occasion. Poojan rituals were conducted by priest Shri Amritbhai Gor with the help from the host of the events. Events were managed by Kothari Swami Premvallabhdasji and Shastri Swami Satyaswaroopdasji. Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal has earned the pleasure of Shri Hari by its loudable services. Temple buildings are ready and the grand events of installation ceremony shall be announced in accordance to the orders from H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The devotees desiring to serve in person, kind or cash may contact Mahant Swami of Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Surendranagar.

Ghanshyamnagar (Halvad)

Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal of this place manages a center for the examinations, beings organized by the Educational-cell of Shri Narnarayandev Dioces, Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Ahmedabad. Forty aspirants were appeared in this examination and among them ten stood first, one on the second position and three stood third with percentage 100%, 99% and 98% respectively. A special Sabha was organized on this occasion and Dhoon and Kirtan Satsang was presented to please Lord Narnaraydnev Hari Krishna Maharaj. The saints from Halved were present at the Sabha to distribute the prizes. Satsang activities are progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

(Gordhanbhai Shivabhai, S.N.N.D.Y.M.)

Shri Swaminarayan Samskardham-Gurukl, Dhrangadhra

Shri Sureshbhai Dahnjibhai Jakasania a Student of H.H. Acharay Tejendraprasadji P.T.C. College (Managed by Shri Swaminarayan Samkskardham Gurukul, Dhrangadhra) has secured 83.63% marks with tenth position in Gujarat state in the first year examination of P.T.C. with first position at district level. Congratulations. *(Sadhu Nityaprakashdas)*

OVERSEAS

Perth (Australia) I.S.S.O.

The Satsang activities are progressing well at Perth and in this region with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. The Satsang Sabhas of August and September were hosted by the families of Shri Harendrabhai, Jagdishbhai Bhudia, Dhanjibhai Bhudia and Vishrambhai Pindaria. A large number of Satsangis have attended these Satsang Sabhas. Dhoon, Kirtans, Katha-Satsang were presented and the Vachanamrits were read and explaind

to please Lord Shri Hari. Our fellow-Satsangi Shri Jayendrabhai Soni earns the favour of Shri Hari by explaining in detail the core meaning of Vachanamrits. The auspicious day of Lord Shri Krishna's birth was celebrated on 7-9-04 at evening with a colourful programme befitting this religious events. Katha Kirtans and Raas Garbas were presented to please Lord Shrishna with the due decorum among male and female devotees. The Sabha was ended with Birthday Thaal Aarti, Mahaprasad meals for this event were hosted by the families of Shri Priteshbhai Hirani and Shri Dhanjibhai Bhudia. Satsang activities are progressing well with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri.

(Secretary, Perth)

Shri Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Mandir, Bolton (U.K.)

'Kutch Shri Narnarayandev Yuvak Mandal' and 'Mahila Mandal' have been formed here with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharajshri and with encouraging inspiration from S.G. Mahant Swami Hariswaroopdasji (Bhuj Temple). S.G. Haridas Swami and S.G. Shastri Swami Krishnaswaroopdasji have graced the city of Bolton and blessed the Satsang Sabha held on 13-8-04 at our Bolton Temple. Both the associations were founded by them in presence of Lord Narnarayandev Harikrishna Maharaj dwelling in his abode at Bolton temple. A large group of forty members was enrolled on the spot for each that association, and on the next day a special Satsang Sabha and both the associations were blessed personally by H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Each of these two associations have donated Rs. 25000/- association wise as a service towards forthcoming "Swaminarayan Musium" at Ahmedabad.

Office Bearers of Yuvak Mandal : M/s. Mitesh Halai (President) Harish Raghvani (V.P.), Hiralal Bhudia (Secy.), Shri Devji Vishram and Vaghji Karsan (Senior Satsangis).

Office Bearers of Mahila Mandal : Sharmilaben Khimani (Dahisara), Pramilaben Vekaria (Baldia), Valbai Raghvani (Baldia) and Manbai Halai (Meghpur).*(Devjibhai Gangajiani)*

Buvei-Merriland (Washington ISSO Chapter)

Satsang is progressing well in this area with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. A Satsang Sabha of two hours duration was conduct on 20-8-04 and Dhoon, Kirtan, Vachanamrit, Katha, Thaal and Aarti were presented to please Lord Shri Hari. *(Kanubhai)*

Sydney (Australia ISSO)

Satsang activities are progressing well at this place with the due blessings of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri. Weekly Satsang Sabhas were hosted in the following order by the Satsangis :

11-7-04	Shri Maheshbhai Trivedi
25-7-04	Shri Arjunbhai Maheta
8-8-04	Shri Mayankbhai Dave
14-8-04	"Hanuman Chalisa Path Session" – Shri Tansukhbhai Halai
22-8-04	Shri Hiteshbhai Thanki
5-9-04	"Janmashtami Celebrations" Shri Arunbhai and Mahendrabhai Shah

Janmashtami festival was celebrated as per religious convention and Annkut was presented to Lord Shri Krishna. *(Jigar Darji)*

AKSHARVAAS

Gadhada : Gavaiya Swami S.G. Devprasaddasji Swami of Gadhada Dhaam passed away (23-8-04) to Akshardham amidst chants of Shri Hari's names.

Surendranagar : Shri Narayandas Popatllal Thakkar (Balol Wala) passed away to Akshardhaam amidst chants of Shri Hari's names.

Ahmedabad : Devotee Manguba (w/o Ambalalbhai Patel of Uvarsad Passed away (4-9-04) to Akshadham amidst chants of Shri Hari's names.

Ahmedabad : Wife of Dr. Jayendrakuamr Yagnik and mother of Advocate Jayantkumar Yagnic – Smt. Urmilaben Yagnik passed away (2-9-04) to Akshadham amidst chants of Shri Hari's names.



H.H. Lalji Maharajshri presents Poojan-Archan to the threshold of the inner temple of Shri Swaminarayan Madir, Surendranagar.



H.H. Lalji Maharajshri with H.H. Bal Lalji Maharaj presents Poojan in presence of saints at Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, Surendranagar.



Patotsava - Annakut is being presented to God at Shri Swaminarayan Temple, Jaipur (Raj.)





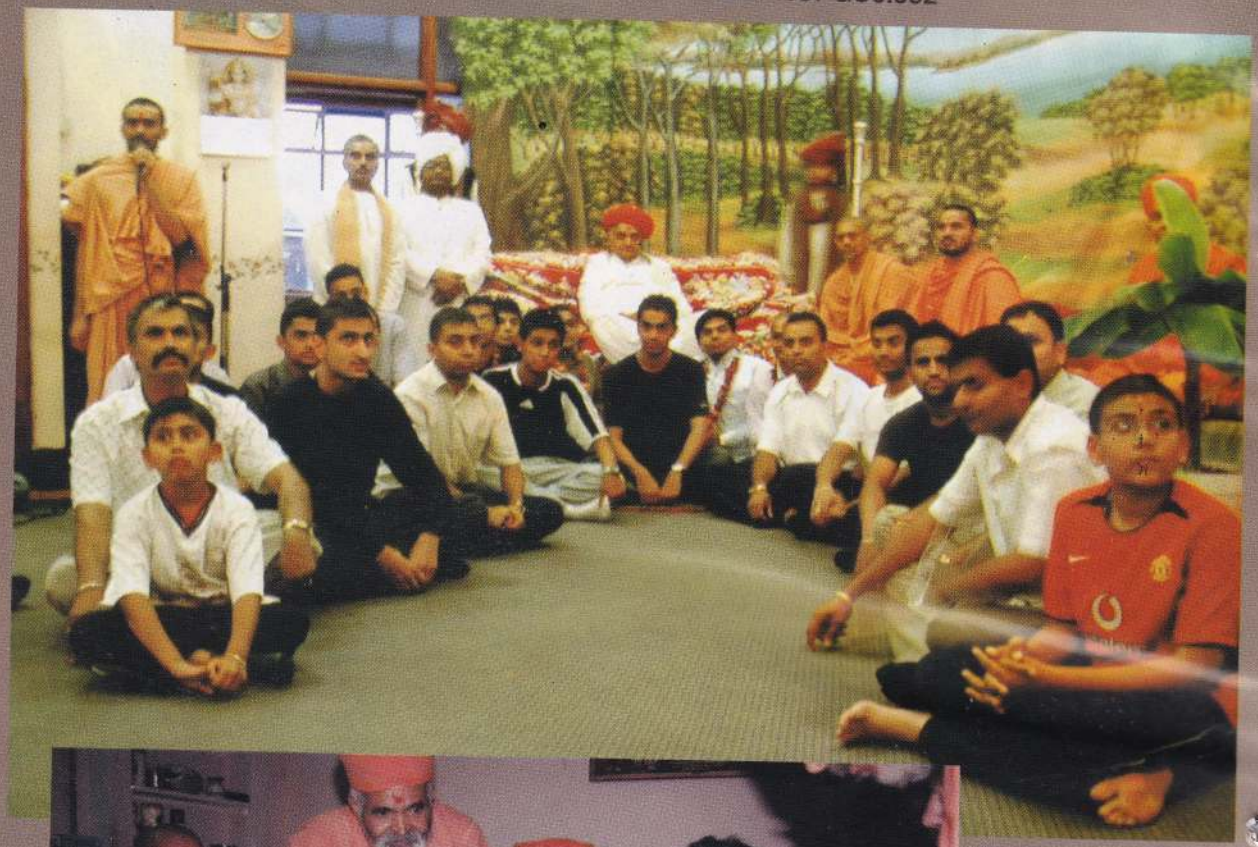
H.H. Bal Lalji Maharajshri presents Poojan-Archan to Lord Ganapatiji at our Narayanghat temple.

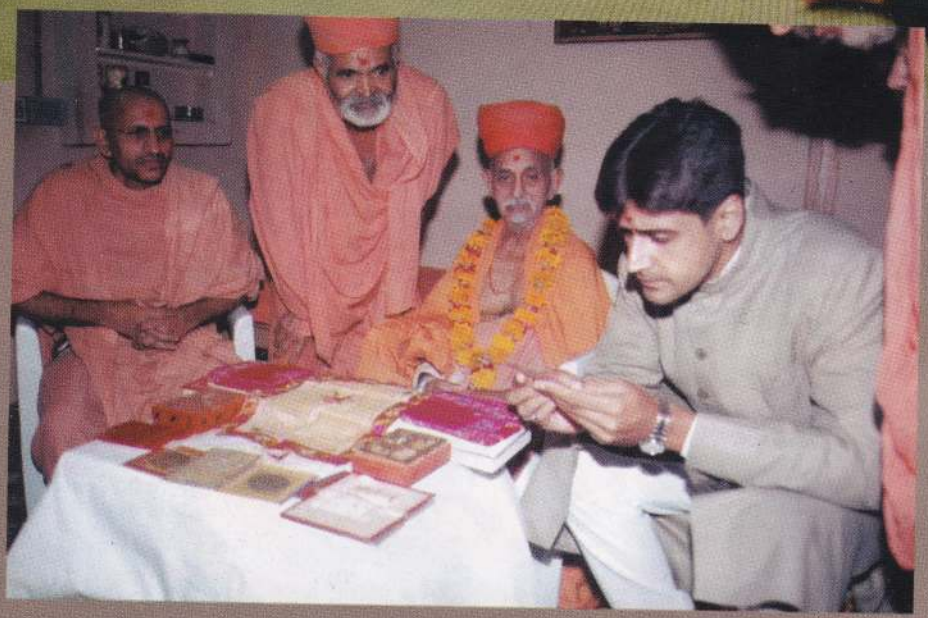


H.H. Lalji Maharajshri presents Abhishekam to Lord Mahadevji at Kankaria Temple.



Devout host Thakorbhai Somdas Patel (Metpur) with his family presents Poojan-Archan to H.H. Lalji Maharajshri on occasion of Patotsava.





Blessed presence of H.H. Acharya Maharajshri at our Bolton (U.K.) Temple to bless his Satsangis.

Divine Prasadi items of Lord Shri Hari, received in succession by senior saint Gavaiya Swami S.G. Keshavjeevandasji as a sacred heritage from his saintly Guru, are being presented to H.H. Lalji Maharajshri for the Musium of Prasadi itmes.