



Children Loving

# Lord Swaminarayan

Part-1

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## 5. Good Intentions

A big congregation was held in the court of Dādā Khāchar in Gadhpur. Shriji Mahārāj was seated on a throne in the courtyard. Sants and devotees were also seated in the courtyard. Mahāprabhu was showering his grace upon them through His discourses. Suddenly people started shouting in the assembly: “Stand up... run away... stand up... black snake... long snake...”

In no time a stampede started in the whole courtyard.

When the place of the assembly was vacated, everybody found a long and black snake under the carpet. Everyone was terrified by the sight.

Looking at the snake Shriji Mahārāj also immediately stood up and addressing everybody, He said, “Everybody keep away from the snake. It is poisonous.”

Hearing Mahārāj's command, everyone gathered in a safe corner in the courtyard.

However a 5-6 year old child of a Brahmin devotee ran after the snake believing it to be a toy. Before the Lord could stop the child, he started running after the snake. Seeing this Shriji Mahārāj shouted immediately, “Hey boy! Come back. It is not sensible to go near it.”

To stop the child, Shriji Mahārāj, himself, started running after the child. Shriji Mahārāj got a hold of the child's arm.

Yet the child strived to catch the snake. Now Shriji Mahārāj could not bear it. He lightly tapped child's head and pulled him away from the snake.

Being hit on the head, the child started crying and he left the courtyard.

On the other hand, two – three devotees skilfully caught the snake, put it in a sack, and released it outside the village. Now all the devotees of the assembly took a sigh of relief. All the devotees took their seats in the assembly once again.

Sitting on the throne and looking at his hand, Shriji Mahārāj was thinking:

“After manifesting in this universe, I have never hit anyone with this hand. And on this child!!! Oh!!! The child must be hurt badly.

The child got hurt by me. I made him unhappy.” Mahārāj became sad with this thought. So the sants asked Him, “Mahārāj ! Why are you so sad?”

Informing the reason of his sadness, Mahārāj said, “Today I forcefully tapped a child's head. So my hand is still tingling. So find the boy from anywhere and bring him before me. I want to make him happy.”

According to Shriji Mahārāj's command, the sants and devotees set out to find the child.

At last, a sant found the child in mānekchawk. He was sitting outside the temple. He was still crying. The sant went to him and explained to him that,

“Oh! You are a Sahajānandi lion. (A lion of supreme Lord Sahjanand Swami) Then why are you crying? Please stop crying. Mahārāj is calling you. He will shower happiness upon you.” Explaining this to the child, the sant brought him to Shriji Mahārāj.

Seeing the child, Shree Hari immediately stood up from his throne. He went toward the child, picked him up and hugged him.

Then caressing him and moving His hand gently on the child's head, Mahārāj asked him,

“My son, are you hurt badly due to my forceful blow on your head? But what can I do? Even though I told you to stop, you were running to catch the snake. From today onwards always listen to your elders. Never displease them.

Your behaviour made me sad. But now I am pleased to see you happy. Today I will shower happiness upon you.” The child became happy to hear that he will be showered with happiness.

Ordering Mulji *brahmachāri*, Shriji Mahārāj said, “Mulji *brahmachāri*! Today, bring my beautiful turban, a dish of sugar lumps and two rupees and give them to this child. I am pleased with him.”

Thus, Shriji Mahārāj pleased the child by giving him gifts.

Wow! God, what a child loving God You are! For the welfare of the child, You tapped him gently on his head, yet you became sad and showered happiness on him and you pleased him. Wow! God wow! You are very kind!

### **Moral:**

#### **For Children:**

- ❁ At present, *Satpurush*, sants and elders are our guides. We must act according to their orders. Their orders are always for our wellbeing.
- ❁ If they scold us, sometimes hit us or get angry with us, we should still go near them with natural and innocent feelings.

#### **For Parents/Guardians:**

- ❁ When we command our children for their wellbeing, and if they oppose, we should still scold them as required. However, they are Mahārāj's *mukts* so we must still please them and understand their glory.
- ❁ We shouldn't make our children sad by repetitively showing them their mistakes in front of others.





## 6. This is my language

There was a village named Loyā. Surā Khāchar was the prominent person of Loyā. Shāntibā was his wife.

They had a daughter who was seven years old. Her name was Vālubā. Vālubā was very playful. So everybody loved her.

Vālubā was not only dear to everybody but her speech was also very sweet. She was able to imitate anybody's speech.

Sometimes Surā Khāchar and Shāntibā were also mistaken due to this skill of Vālubā.

Once, Shree Hari had come to Loyā. Surā Khāchar and Shāntibā were listening to Mahārāj's discourses. Suddenly there was a voice near the front door, "Narayan Hare... Satchitānand prabho...!"

Mahārāj also heard this sound of a begging sant. So He told Surā Khāchar,

"O Surā Khāchar! Please go to the front door. It seems that one of our sants has come for alms.

Listening to Mahārāj, Surābapu said, "Mahārāj! This is not your sant. But this is our sant."

Mahārāj did not understand. So He asked, "Who is your sant?"

Folding his two hands before Mahārāj, Surā Khāchar told Him, "Our daughter Vālu is our sant. It is the voice of Vālu, and not the voice of any sant."

Shree Hari could not believe him. So He went to the door. As soon as He opened the door, little Valu was seen. She had a begging bowl of sants in her hand. She was repeatedly making cry for alms. Mahāprabhu was surprised to see Valu.

"Oh! Such a small girl she is, but how clever she is! She speaks as if she were our sant."

Saying this, Mahārāj called Vālu and asked her, "Daughter, why are you begging for alms like our sants?"

"Oh Mahārāj! This is my language," Vālu said frankly.

"No, it is not your language but it is the language of our sants." Mahārāj told her.

"Mahārāj! It's ok if it's your sant's language, but when sants are hungry, they ask for food in this way. Likewise when I am hungry, I also utter the same words and then I also get food."

Having listened to Vālu's sweet childish language, Mahārāj was pleased and told her, "Valu you have a tendency to learn the customs of our sants and *paramhansas*.

So when you grow up you will surely learn to follow in their footsteps. Hence, you will get divine happiness just like our sants."

Then the God went to the kitchen. He brought a chapatti of millet and curd. Sitting in the porch of the house, Mahārāj started feeding Vālu. Like a child, Valu ate morsels from the divine hands of Mahārāj.



The joy of Surā Khāchar and Shantibā knew no bounds because what a grace it was that the ruler of infinite universes Himself, was feeding their daughter.

This was the moment when they felt the most grateful in their lives. They watched this divine *lilā* of Shriji Mahārāj with sheer joy.

Wow! God, how children loving You are! You feed the hungry. You make them happy.

Thus, your ways to encourage the skills of children are wonderful.

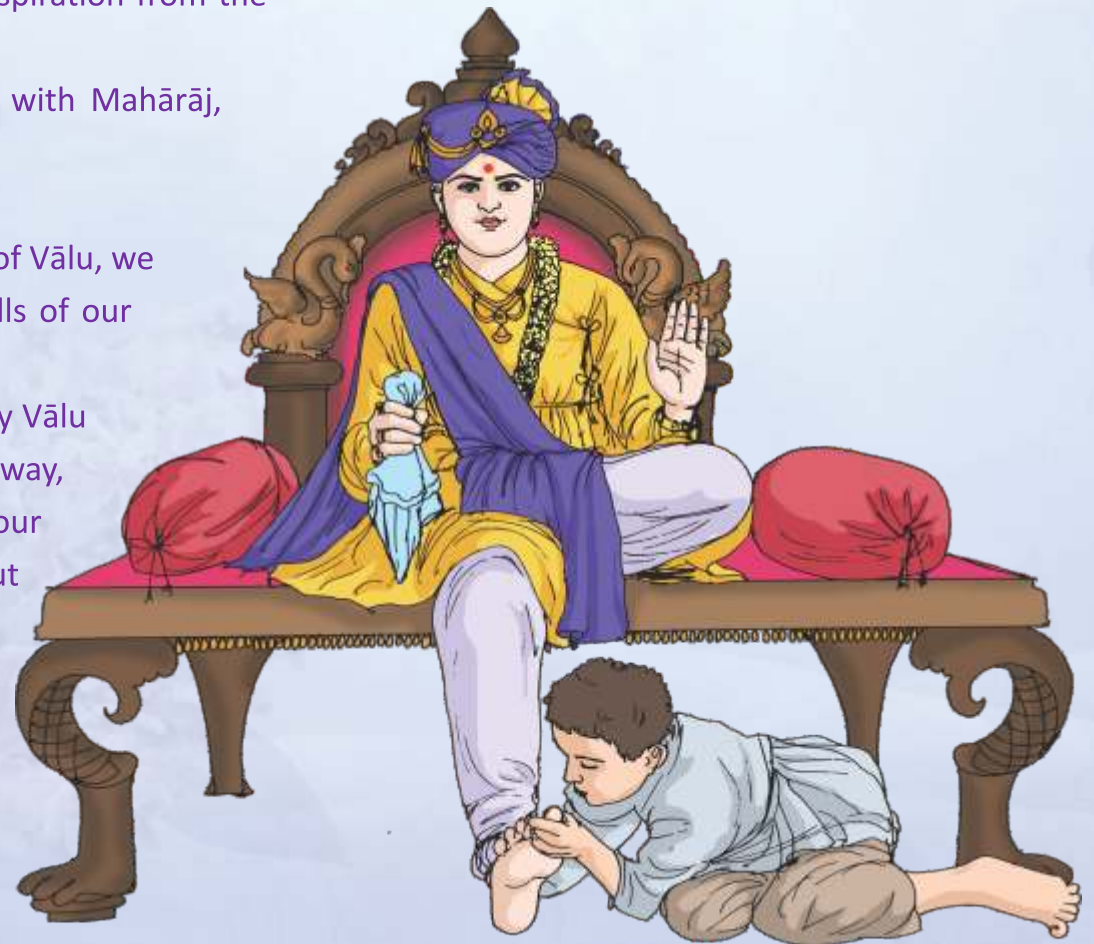
### **Moral:**

#### **For Children:**

- ❁ Children should use their skills to please Mahārāj and *Satpurush*.
- ❁ Children should live a divine life, getting inspiration from the divine life of *Satpurush* and sants.
- ❁ We should behave honestly and egolessly with Mahārāj, *Satpurush* and sants.

#### **For Parents/Guardians:**

- ❁ Just like Shriji Mahārāj encouraged the skill of Vālu, we should also find out the potentials and skills of our children and we should encourage them.
- ❁ Did you notice how innocently and childishly Vālu was behaving with her parents? In the same way, we should become near and dear to our children so that they are not afraid of us, but rather they can behave freely and friendly with us.







## 7. Victory against his Mind

There was a village near Vadtāl. Its name was Mahudiyu paru. A child lived there. His name was Saluk Pagi.

Saluk's maternal uncle was a devotee of Lord Swaminarayan.

Once, Saluk grew watermelons in his farm. When the first two watermelons grew in his farm he decided, "Out of these two watermelons, I will offer one to my maternal uncle and the other to my maternal uncle's God, Lord Swaminarayan.

"There is a celebration in Vadtāl after a week, so I will go there and offer the watermelon to the God myself. Thinking this, he dug two pits in the ground and buried the two watermelons and covered them with sand.

After one week, Saluk decided to go to the celebration in Vadtāl. Before going to the celebration, he dug open the two pits again to take out the watermelons. But what was this?

The foxes had already dug up the pit and they had eaten the watermelon that was for his maternal uncle, while the watermelon for Lord Swaminarayan was still intact. Of course it would be so! The Lord protects everything which surrenders to him.

He took Mahārāj's watermelon and set out for Vadtāl. But as he walked a while, his eyes were attracted to the watermelon in his hand. Seeing the nicely ripe watermelon, Saluk thought, "O foolish! Silently eat this nice watermelon. Is there any shortage at Swaminarayan's house? There are so many devotees to gift him. Finish it."

Thus, his mind was slackened. So, he sat under a tree. He took out a knife from his pocket and as soon as he was about to cut the watermelon, a thought crossed his mind again.

"O foolish! Aren't you ashamed? How can you eat something that you have already dedicated to Lord Swaminarayan? Hey, you will eat Mahārāj's food as well?"

He put the knife back into his pocket and he started walking forward with the watermelon in his hand. Having gone no further, his mind was tempted again upon seeing the watermelon and he thought, "Your watermelon will be crushed in the crowded celebration. Who will take care of you? Nobody will call you among so many people. Secretly just finish it here!"

Having thought this, he took out the knife from his pocket but a thought crossed his mind once again, "It's ok even if Mahārāj doesn't eat your watermelon, but at least your love will be known to Mahārāj! He is omniscience; then why shouldn't you give it to Him? In this way, torn between the conflict of his soul and his mind, at last Saluk reached Vadtāl.

In Vadtāl, Mahārāj was sitting on a throne in a big assembly. Saluk arrived and stood behind the assembly.

At a time, Shriji Mahārāj told the assembly to make some space for Saluk. Shriji Mahārāj sent someone to bring Saluk to Him. Amidst the assembly He said,

"Saluk! Give me the watermelon. You have brought it for me, haven't you?"



Then Mahārāj took the watermelon from his hand, got it cut and started eating it in the assembly. While eating, Mahārāj told the assembly,

“Sants – devotees ! This Saluk is greater than all of you because he has gotten victory over his mind. If he had not kept control over his mind, I would not have gotten a chance to eat this watermelon. So today, we are blessing Saluk to get eternal peace along with Muktanand Swami!

Like so, Mahārāj was very delighted and gave these blessings to Saluk.

Wow! God, how children loving you are! And how pleased you are with the smallest offering from children! You showered grace upon Saluk because he controlled his mind and regarded him to be greater than everybody sitting in the assembly. Oh... God! Your grace has no bounds.

**Moral:**

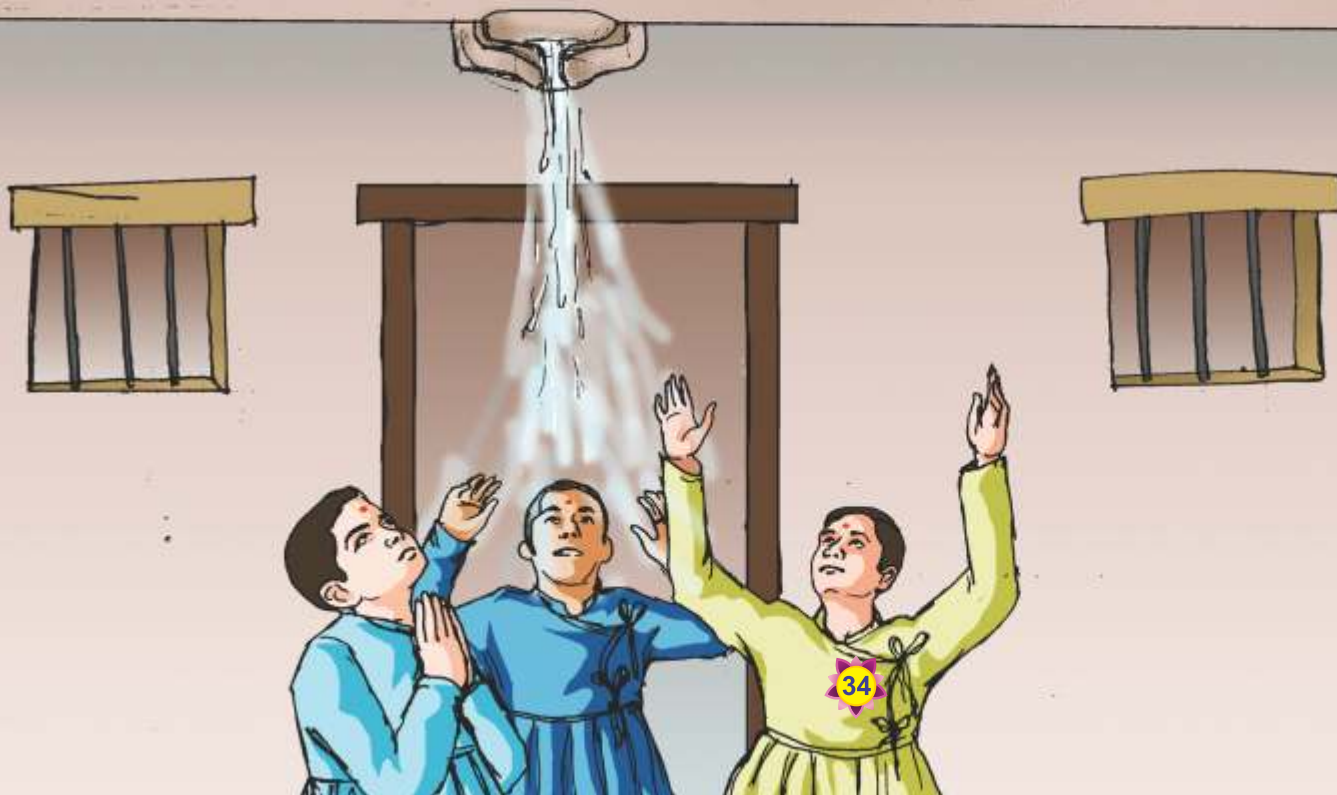
**For Children:**

- ✿ Whatever food we get, we should first offer it to Mahārāj and then we should eat it. Moreover, we should also remember to offer the food in the temple and to sants who are our real relatives.
- ✿ As Saluk pagi gained control over his mind to please Mahārāj, we should also put aside our desires and fix our vision on pleasing Mahārāj and Satpurush. In the matter of following rules and regulations, we should gain control over our mind and please them. This is so that we do not get swept away in worldly activities such as eating, drinking, watching or listening to anything that is against the command of Maharaj.

**For Parents/Guardians:**

- ✿ Just as Mahārāj displayed Saluk's virtue in front of the entire Sabha and showered pleasure upon him, we should display our children's virtues to our family. This way they will be motivated to gain more virtues.





## 8. Shower of Grace

Once upon a time Shree Hari came to take a bath on the first floor of Hari *mandap* in Vadtāl.

Mulji *brahmachāri* welcomed Shree Hari with great reverence.

Shree Hari gladly sat on a beautiful golden table.

Then *brahmachāri* started bathing Shree Hari with warm rose water from a copper bowl.

He started massaging Shree Hari's body with different fragrant oils of *champā*(Plumeria), mogra and, musk. He was also softly singing:

*“Attar tel fulel anupam, mardan karva māvāne;  
Aang chole dhole jal upar, rasiyoji rizāvāne.”*

Shree Hari was smiling while listening to this stanza. Meanwhile, Mahārāj heard a sudden uproar.

So, Shree Hari asked immediately, “What is this noise?”

Folding his two hands Mulji *brahmachāri* said, “Mahārāj, It's the children making noise. Let me go and find out the reason for it.”

*Brahmachāri* looked down from the balcony and said, “Mahārāj! It is some children from the village.”

“Oh! What are they doing?” asked Mahārāj.

“They are playing in the dripping water with which you have taken a bath. Some are splashing the water on one another. And some are bathing in it.” To silence the boys, *brahmachāri* loudly shouted, “Hey boys! Why are you making so much noise? Keep quiet.”

One of the children spoke, “O Kind *brahmachāri*! We are enjoying and bathing in the pious water with which Mahārāj has taken a bath.”

Looking at this child the *brahmachāri* said, “If you are just bathing then why are you shouting? Mahārāj is getting disturbed while listening to these devotional stanzas. So, go away from here.” Because Mahārāj was very kind and loving, He stood up immediately, while bathing. Then Shree Hari watched the innocent playful games of the children and He said,

“*Brahmachāri*, let them play. Don't drive them away. It's ok if they bath. They are taking a bath in My pious water after all. Let them have a bath. All the children will be pleased. They don't understand your scolding. They only know how to enjoy. Let them bath. Then, Shree Hari started filling a jug from the copper bowl and began pouring water on the children.

When they felt a sudden shower of grace, the children looked up, and saw Shree Hari.

All the children were in a frenzy of joy. They all started dancing and jumping enthusiastically. They all hailed victory of Mahārāj.

Seeing the children this happy, Mahārāj said,

“*Brahmachāri*! These children are not only bathing in my pious water, but they are also bathing in my shower of grace. It doesn't matter whether they know Me or not, but I know them very well. I have put an end to their infinite birth cycles. And I have made them worthy of the bliss of My *Murti*.

Seeing Mahārāj's shower of grace, *brahmachāri* spoke to himself.

“Wow Mahārāj! What great kindness...! You made these children very much grateful.”

Wow! God, how children loving you are! How minutely you thought about the children's delicate minds. Even though they were making too much noise, you didn't drive them away. Moreover, you bathed them with your own hands and easily granted them the bliss of your *Murti* which cannot be found even in infinite universes. Wow gracious! You showered a lot of grace....

### **Moral:**

#### **For Children:**

- ❁ While playing, we should take care not to disturb any family members, elders and other people living in the surrounding area. We should also take care not to disturb Mahārāj, *Satpurush* and sants in the temple during their service to God.
- ❁ When *Satpurush* are taking a bath, we should sprinkle some of the pious water on our head with due respect. With similar respect, we should prostrate before sants when they are having a meal.
- ❁ We should understand the greatness of the offerings given to us by *Satpurush* and sants and we should accept them with divine feelings.

#### **For Parents/Guardians:**

- ❁ Just as Shriji Mahārāj didn't hurt the children's feelings and bathed them in the shower of his grace, similarly, we should also be kind and generous towards our children. We shouldn't disappoint them. We should always keep them happy.







## 9. I Will Feed Him

Once, Shriji Mahārāj had come to Bhuj, Kutch. He had held an assembly for female devotees. He was delivering a religious discourse to them.

During the daily assemblies the women would have to sit far away from Mahārāj, whereas today they got an opportunity to sit close to Mahārāj in the assembly.

Hence forgetting everything else, all the women were engrossed in listening to the discourse.

Meanwhile, there was the sound of a crying child from one side of the assembly. Mahāprabhu stopped delivering His speech and asked,

“Who is the mother of this crying child?” Engrossed in listening to discourse none of the women answered Mahārāj's question.

So Shree Hari asked again, “Are you all listening? Someone's child is crying.”

Hearing the child's cries, a woman stood up. She was Laxmibāi, the sister of Bhagavānji Sutār of Bhuj. Mahāprabhu recognized her.

So Mahāprabhu realised that this child's mother is Laxmibāi, He immediately said,

“Please go quickly and first calm down your child. We should first take care of our child and then we should attend the assembly.”

Laxmibai immediately went to the child, took him in her lap, hugged him and gave him maternal love.

She fed the child, and he eventually calmed down. So, she went to attend the assembly again, but the child started crying again. Hence, the God ordered her to go back to her child.

She went to the child and tried very hard to calm him down but he continued to cry. At last he finally became silent.

Then his mother laid him down in a cradle, covered him with a cloth and went to sit in the assembly again.

Then the discourse started again and continued for a long time. Everybody was very grateful to have received Mahārāj's darshan and discourse. The assembly was over.

Everyone was returning to their homes. Laxmibāi was also going to her home but, Mahārāj called her.

Bāi! You got a chance to do my darshan today, but your *Bālmukt* (child) hasn't done my darshan yet. I want to give him My darshan. Please take Me to him. As soon as Mahārāj said this much, Laxmibāi became very excited. Then she led Mahārāj to her child.

Mahārāj removed the cloth that was covered on the child. When Mahārāj saw the child, Mahārāj felt compassion towards him and said,

“Oh, this child is very thin. He is not getting enough food to eat!” Then scolding Laxmibai, Mahārāj said, “You are not giving your child food on time. If you give him nourishing food, then he will grow healthy. Please promise me that now onwards you will take care of his food and nourishment.” Having said this much, the God picked up the child.

The God was showering His affection on the child by caressing him on the head. The child suddenly woke up from Mahārāj's divine touch. Then he started staring at Mahārāj's face. It was as though his weak body got a new jolt of energy.

Then *Mahāprabhuji* told Laxmibāi, “Go and fetch some milk and hotchpotch from your house. Today, I will feed him with My own hands.”

The mother's joy knew no bounds. She immediately brought milk and hotchpotch from her house and gave it to Mahārāj. Caressing the child with His own hands, Mahārāj fed the child and then made him sleep in the cradle.

“From today onwards, you have promised me, that you will feed this child with nutritious food every day. Take care of him. Moreover, before attending any assembly, take enough care of him. Ok, now I am taking your leave.” Mahārāj departed after saying this much.

Wow! God wow! How children loving you are! Seeing the child's weak body, you felt very sad. Then you fed the child with Your own hands, and showered him with Your affection. Wow Gracious! How graceful You are!

### **Moral:**

#### **For Children:**

- \* This child was very small but we are of course very wise children! So, whenever we go to the temple, during an assembly, we should never trouble our parents or anybody else with our mischiefs or by crying.
- \* We should never behave in such a way that our elders or parents get scolded due to our misbehavior.
- \* We should take our meal at a proper fixed time. We should never be stubborn or picky in food related matters.

#### **For Parents/Guardians:**

- \* We must always remain satsang oriented, but at the same time, we must acknowledge our children to be *Anādimuktas*. Hence, we must serve them at proper times and take good care of them.
- \* As a guardian, while performing our social and spiritual responsibilities we should never disregard our child's health. We must be very aware about regularly giving our child nutritious foods.
- \* Just as Mahārāj fed the child with His own hand, we must also insist on feeding the child with our own hand up to a certain age to shower our love and to ensure good health.



# 6

## MAHARAJ'S ĀGNĀ IS AN ORDER

In the Swaminarayan sect, many highly honourable sants say that “Bapji is an idol of obedience. You cannot find anyone in this entire sect who possesses equal obedience as HDH Bapji.”

Our beloved HDH Bapji’s life truly resembles the words from the 38<sup>th</sup> Vachanāmṛut of the Gadhadā Last Chapters, “When a minor command of God is breached, he feels as though he has breached a major command.” Likewise, HDH Bapji is a synonym of obedience.

When HDH Bapji was residing in the Kālupur temple, He went on many *satsang* related travels. During that time, whenever the devotees gave donations, He would have another devotee collect all the donations, bring them back to the temple and submit them to the *kothar*. HDH Bapji would stand right beside the devotee to make sure all the money would be handed over accurately.

In addition, whenever a devotee would bring any monetary or any other type of donation to His *āsan*, He would take the devotee straight to the donation office (*kothar*) to keep his account clear. He

has never breached even a sole command of Shriji Maharaj.

The accountant present at that time and the Acharya Maharaj would tell the sants that, “We have many sants in this temple, but out of all of them, this Dev Swami (HDH Bapji) is the only one who never keeps any items or donations at His *āsan*. He always submits everything to the *kothar* according to Shriji Maharaj’s command. He follows all of Shriji Maharaj’s commands, especially the vow of non-greed, with complete awareness.”

Additionally, HDH Bapji follows Shriji Maharaj’s every command mentioned in scriptures such as the Shikshāpatrī<sup>1</sup>, Dharmāmrut, Nishkāmsuddhi and Vedras<sup>2</sup> under any circumstances.

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HDH Bapji was giving bliss to everyone at the Kālupur temple through His discourses. At that time, many sants and devotees would tell Him to worry about His future and urge Him to keep some money for Himself.

Not just this, but once an elder sant, expressed his worry for HDH Bapji’s future by saying, “Dev Swami, this is *kalyug*<sup>3</sup>. What if, in the future, you do not have any disciples to serve you when you get ill? What will you do when you need medication? Someone will only serve you if you have money, or else no one will even look at you. Therefore, stop worrying about following all the rules and start keeping some money for yourself. Even we keep money for ourselves.”

HDH Bapji replied to the sant, “I have become a sant for Supreme Bhagwan Swaminarayan, and I am His true disciple. Why would I worry about what will happen to me? I should have faith in money but not in the supreme Bhagwan, Himself? I am a son of Maharaj

1 The Shikshapatri is a religious text consisting of two hundred and twelve verses, written in Sanskrit by Lord Swaminarayan.

2 These are the Scripture from Nishkulanand Kavya describing the rules of saints of Swaminarayan Sect, the manners of repentance for an ascetic.

3 Age of darkness, the fourth and present of the four ages; lasts 432,000 Human years, people live to be 100 years old.

and Bapashri. A lion does not eat grass no matter how hungry it gets. Likewise, I will never breach even a minor command of Shriji Maharaj no matter what the circumstances. For me, a command is a command. Therefore, what you are suggesting will never happen. Shriji Maharaj is my protector, and I have complete faith that He will take care of me through all the thick and thin times. He will always worry about me. Being dependent on money... What sort of understanding is that?"

HDH Bapji didn't have even any turmeric powder to put in His khichri (Hotch-potch), nor did He have a sant in His pair. Yet in such tough times, He has firmly followed even the smallest command of Shriji Maharaj, considering them just as significant as the major ones.

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During the time when HDH Bapji resided at Kālupur temple, He was diagnosed with typhoid. At that time, He only had around 3-4 devotees who would come to His *āsan*. Even in such illness, there was no other sant who would aid Him in His daily routine.

Sometimes He would experience dizziness, whereas at other times, He would have an extreme fever. There was no one to cook Him meals, consequently, He hadn't eaten anything for three days straight. Yet, He hadn't let anyone find out about His condition. When a devotee finally found out, he called a doctor for a proper diagnosis.

After the check-up, the doctor said, "Swami, you have typhoid, therefore you cannot eat any prepared meals. You can only take liquid, milk or fruit."

After grasping the situation at HDH Bapji's *āsan* the doctor said, "But swami, who will get you milk and fruits?"

HDH Bapji stayed silent. He didn't utter a single word. The doctor understood HDH Bapji's situation and realized that HDH Bapji didn't have any money to buy anything. He said, "Here, keep these ten rupees. Whenever you need anything, you can ask someone to buy it for you."

As soon as the doctor reached out to give Him the money, HDH



Bapji instantly stopped him and said, “Doctor, sants are not allowed to touch money, so keeping the money for themselves is obviously also prohibited. This would break the vow of non-greed which Maharaj has given to us.”

The doctor said, “Swami, isn’t this an exceptional case? You should keep money in this kind of situation.”

HDH Bapji promptly responded, “Doctor, what kind of exception? I will live as Maharaj wants me to live and endure whatever He shows me. Everything happens by the will of Shriji Maharaj. So, there will be no exceptions in any rules and regulations that Maharaj has set up for me as a sant. If you wish to help me then kindly don’t do it in this way. If you want, you can bring some milk or fruits for me. You will also obtain an opportunity to do Maharaj’s darshan and listen to the discourses of sants.”

The doctor was astonished to see HDH Bapji’s resolve for following the rules and regulations even under such critical circumstances. The doctor agreed to come to HDH Bapji every day with some milk and fruits and to listen to His discourses.

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It was *ekādashi*, and HDH Bapji was feeling sick. He had a high fever and His body was aching. According to the doctor, He required lots of rest.

In addition, the sants requested that “Bapji! You really need some rest, so please rest for a while.”

“I cannot sleep right now.”

The sants requested so much but HDH Bapji did not rest at all.

Likewise, an infinite chain of examples can be written about HDH Bapji and His resolve of following all the commands of Shriji Maharaj. From each instance, only one conclusion could be made; HDH Bapji is indeed an idol of obedience, an idol of determination and a unique idol of compliance to Shriji Maharaj’s commands.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of HDH Bapji and His resolve of following Shriji Maharaj’s commands.**

# 7

## PRAISE FROM OPPOSITION

“Who is this swami? Look at how God-oriented He is! I have been observing Him for the past hour and a half, and He has continuously been circumambulating (doing *pradakshinā*) around the idol of Ghanshyam Maharaj with full concentration.”

“Oh, He is Dev Swami...”

“This swami seems to be very great. Every time I come to the temple for *ārti*, I have noticed Him be completely engrossed in Maharaj.”

“Oh yes, that is true...He is undeniably a true sant...He is very idealistic ...Not only have I experienced this, but I have also heard about this from the other devotees.”

“Seeing this sant makes me want to bow down at His feet...”

“Yes, this place has more than four hundred sants, but this sant is the most unique and special amongst all of them. If you keep the



four hundred sants on one side, and this sant on the other, His pure saintliness would still be greater than all of them. It is His pious devotion that makes Him stand out.”

Such conversations occurred amongst awestruck aspirants who were captivated by HDH Bapji’s saintliness. HDH Bapji’s personality was so extraordinary that even those who would never bow down in front of anyone would easily bow their heads down at His divine feet.

HDH Bapji’s true saintliness impressed many sants and aspirants. However, because of the sect’s obligations, oppositions arose when HDH Bapji spoke of Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s supremacy and the glory of Jivanprān Bapashri. However, internally they still understood HDH Bapji’s glory.

When HDH Bapji resided at the Kālupur temple, He guided Ramanbhai Kachhiya on the path of spirituality while doing circumambulation (*pradakshinā*). As Ramanbhai advanced on the path of spirituality, he frequently would come to HDH Bapji’s *āsan* for His darshan and discourses.

According to HDH Bapji’s norm, He would sit with Ramanbhai to consolidate Bhagwan Swaminarayan’s supremacy and instill firmness of religious conducts in his life. Ramanbhai also had an attachment to an elderly pāṛshad<sup>1</sup> who also resided at the Kālupur temple. So, from time to time he would go for his darshan as well.

One time, Ramanbhai had gone listening to HDH Bapji’s discourses for five-seven consecutive days. One day, a couple of sants spotted him coming from HDH Bapji’s *āsan*. They were aware of the fact that Ramanbhai also had an attachment with the pāṛshad.

They called the pāṛshad over and started to scold Ramanbhai in front of him, “Ramanbhai, that Dev Swami is a follower of Bapashri. We do not believe in Bapashri. So, don’t go to His *āsan* or listen to His discourses, otherwise, He will trap you.”

<sup>1</sup> A pre-stage of sant dixa. In which an individual as offered a white clothes with similar vows, rituals and spiritual practices as a sant.

Ramanbhai had understood HDH Bapji's true glory by experiencing His saintliness and His firmness for religious commands first-hand. As a result, he was not convinced by the sants' words.

After a while when the group of sants left, he asked the pāṛshad bhagat, "What should I do? Should I go to Dev Swami's āsan to listen to His discourses?"

This pāṛshad was closely aware of HDH Bapji's pious life that was full of principle and saintliness. So, he said with glory, "This temple has four hundred sants amongst which Dev Swami is the only true diamond-like sant. There is not a single flaw in His saintliness. I am unable to go to Him due to my reputation and obligations, however, I personally advise you to go and listen to His discourses. Let everyone speak as they wish. You mustn't listen to anyone. Grasp as much as you can from Him."

"A true warrior is one who is praised even by his enemies." As such, the pāṛshad bhagat who did not understand Bapashri's glory still praised HDH Bapji's saintliness and also advised those attached to him to listen to HDH Bapji's discourses.

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HDH Bapji lived in a temple full of four hundred sants yet, He was all on His own. It was very difficult for Him to be a follower of Bapashri in a temple where even uttering Bapashri's name was totally prohibited.

Despite such, this divine *Satpurush* continued to openly and fearlessly propagate the principles from the Rahasyārth Vachanāmrut<sup>2</sup> and Bapashrini vāto<sup>3</sup>.

Many people used to say that, "In this temple, there are some who have understood 50% of Bapashri's glory, some who have understood 75% and some who have understood 90% but this Dev Swami has

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2 Vachanāmrut with annotation by Jeevanprān Abjibapashri.

3 Sermons of Bāpāshri.



understood 110% of Bapashri's glory. He does not shake from His firm understanding no matter how much anyone tries. He is not afraid of anyone. Despite living in this temple, He continues to propagate Bapashri's glory very openly. I salute His courage!!”

Even those sants and devotees who opposed HDH Bapji or expressed a disliking towards Him, still internally understood the glory of His saintliness. So, despite taunting Him from the outside they had nothing but sheer respect for Him from the inside.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of a courageous *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji, whose extraordinary persona outshone even amongst hundreds of sants. And so, opposers could not keep from praising His saintliness.**

#### **Did You Know?**

The third successor of Kāran Satsang's legacy, Sadguru Ishwarcharandasji Swami has deeply researched the Vachnāmrut and has added annotations of Jeevanprān Abajibapashri in the Vachnāmrut. This compilation is known today as the “Raharshyarth Vachnāmrut”. He has also collected and compiled the sermons of Bapashri to create a scripture known as “Abajibapashri ni Vato”.



# 8

## AN INCREDIBLE PERSONALITY

In 1968, when HDH Bapji resided at the Kālupur temple, Sagardanbhai first came into His contact. He was a true aspirant and was in search of a true sant.

He felt a great attraction towards HDH Bapji due to His true saintliness and His eagerness for devotees to lead a divine life.

Once a thought crossed Sagardanbhai's mind, "He seems to be a true sant. But I want to test Him with a few questions and if He answers them correctly, I will devote my whole life to Him."

So, he met HDH Bapji at the temple in front of Sahajanand Swami's *Murti* in Rangmahol. He did darshan of HDH Bapji and prostrated before Him. He then placed a piece of paper with a hundred and twenty-five questions in HDH Bapji's hands and said, "Swami, I have written a hundred and twenty-five questions on this list. Can you answer them for me?"

HDH Bapji glanced at all the questions within a few moments and



returned the list back to him.

Then, He said with a small chuckle, “Daily come to our *āsan* to listen to the discourses. We will meet to answer your questions after ten days.”

The next day, after work, Sagardanbhai went to HDH Bapji’s *āsan* to listen to His discourse. After listening to the preaching, he went home and saw he had gotten the answers to many of the questions from his list. So, he crossed out the questions which were answered.

For the remaining days, it became his routine to go to HDH Bapji’s *āsan*, listen to His discourses, return home and cross out more of the answered questions from his list. Eventually, by the tenth day, he had received satisfying answers to all his questions.

Sagardanbhai was very astonished by the fact that even though HDH Bapji had glanced at his list of a hundred and twenty-five questions for only a moment, He omnisciently answered all of them.

Upon receiving his answers within ten days, he was able to do darshan of HDH Bapji’s incredible personality, like that of Sadguru Brahmanand Swami. (A talented multi-tasker, multi-thinker and an omniscient sant).

After this incident, Sagardanbhai totally devoted his body, wealth and mind to HDH Bapji. He always stood by HDH Bapji’s side through all the tough situations.

HDH Bapji beholds an incredible personality in *avarbhāv* and in *parbhāv*. He continuously resides in the bliss of *Murti*. He omnisciently acknowledges the questions arising in aspirants’ minds and gives them satisfying answers. He inspires strong spirituality in infinite aspirants.

**Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an incredible *Satpurush*, HDH Bapji...**



# 9

## ENDLESSLY EGOLESS

Why should the disciples of an extremely humble God have any type of ego?

In accordance with the tradition set by Shriji Maharaj, during the year, at every six-month intervals, two grand celebrations were held in Muli; on *Vasant Panchami* and *Janmāshtami*.

Many sants and devotees would come hearing the sermons during these celebrations. Particularly, a vast portion of the audience would be comprised of Bapashri's followers.

Several Sadguru sants such as Sadguru Gopivallabhdasji Swami, Sadguru Dharmakishordasji Swami, Sadguru Shvetvaikunthdasji Swami, Sadguru Gunatitdasji Swami, Sadguru Hariprasaddasji Swami, and many others who were in close association with Bapashri would deliver continuous sermons during these events. It was for this reason that HDH Bapji never missed attending these events under any circumstances.

At that time, HDH Bapji was not in association with any wealthy devotees and neither did He have any sants to form a pair. Therefore, to go to Muli, HDH Bapji would always have to borrow a sant from another sant's group.

During those days, it would cost 10 Rs to go from Ahmedabad to Muli. HDH Bapji was a staunch renouncer of women and wealth. Thus, He did not have any money and neither did He get others to keep any money on His behalf.

Hence, HDH Bapji humbly asked a well-known and wealthy devotee, "We want to go to attend the event in Muli. So can you please buy a ticket for us?"

The devotee angrily replied with a succession of abusive words, "If You want to go to Muli, then go to the assembly hall and You will find a couple of devotees sitting there. Ask each of them for a little bit of money and You will have enough to go to Muli. If You do not want to do that, then after *ārti*, sit by the staircase with a cloth spread out in front of You. People will walk by and throw small amounts of money, then You will have enough money to go to Muli."

HDH Bapji swallowed the abuse and insults without any retaliation. He was internally very prosperous and yet, even after being advised to beg for some money, there was not a single sign of anger on His face.

In order to follow Maharaj's commands, HDH Bapji endured insults to the highest possible degree, and yet, acted as if nothing had happened and always remained in a very calm state. This shows the humbleness of this *Satpurush*.

There are countless examples like this, where HDH Bapji would have to endure showers of endless hatred and insults.

Devotees who were captivated by HDH Bapji's saintliness would say, "Swami, at least say something back to them. What right do they have to say that to you! Swami, look at where you are, and look at



where they are! At least, say something!”

HDH Bapji would respond, “Our father, Swaminarayan Bhagwan, has suffered and endured so much! Despite being the Supreme God, Himself, He has always acted very humbly. We are His mere servants, so we must also be just as humble.

**“Jenā Nirmāni hoy bhagwān, tenā Janne joie kem mān.”**

**“Why should the disciples of an extremely humble God have any type of ego?”**

For that reason, if we remain humble, then Maharaj will be pleased. And besides, the poor opposers lack the proper insight between right and wrong, thus, they say these things. So, rather than conveying anything back to them we should only pray that Maharaj helps them.”

Wow! Look at the humbleness of this *Satpurush*! Look at how focused He is on Maharaj’s commands! Look at how calm and resolute He is in the moment of insults! There is not a single drop of ego in Him! He is the Guru of the entire organization and yet if someone blatantly insults Him publicly or says something rude without careful thought, He does not express the slightest of negative thoughts or grief. Such extreme humbleness!

**Even in the profuse shower of insults, HDH Bapji remains and behaves with utmost humbleness. Infinite salutations at the divine feet of an idol of humbleness, HDH Bapji!**

