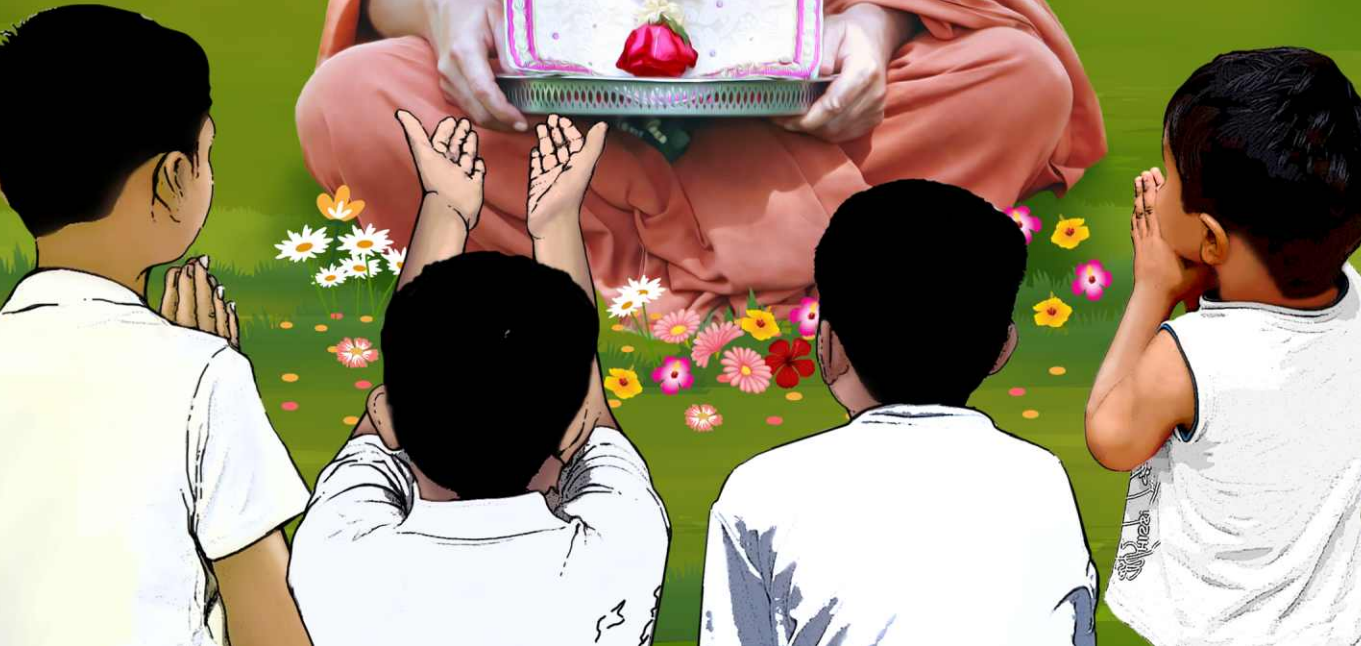
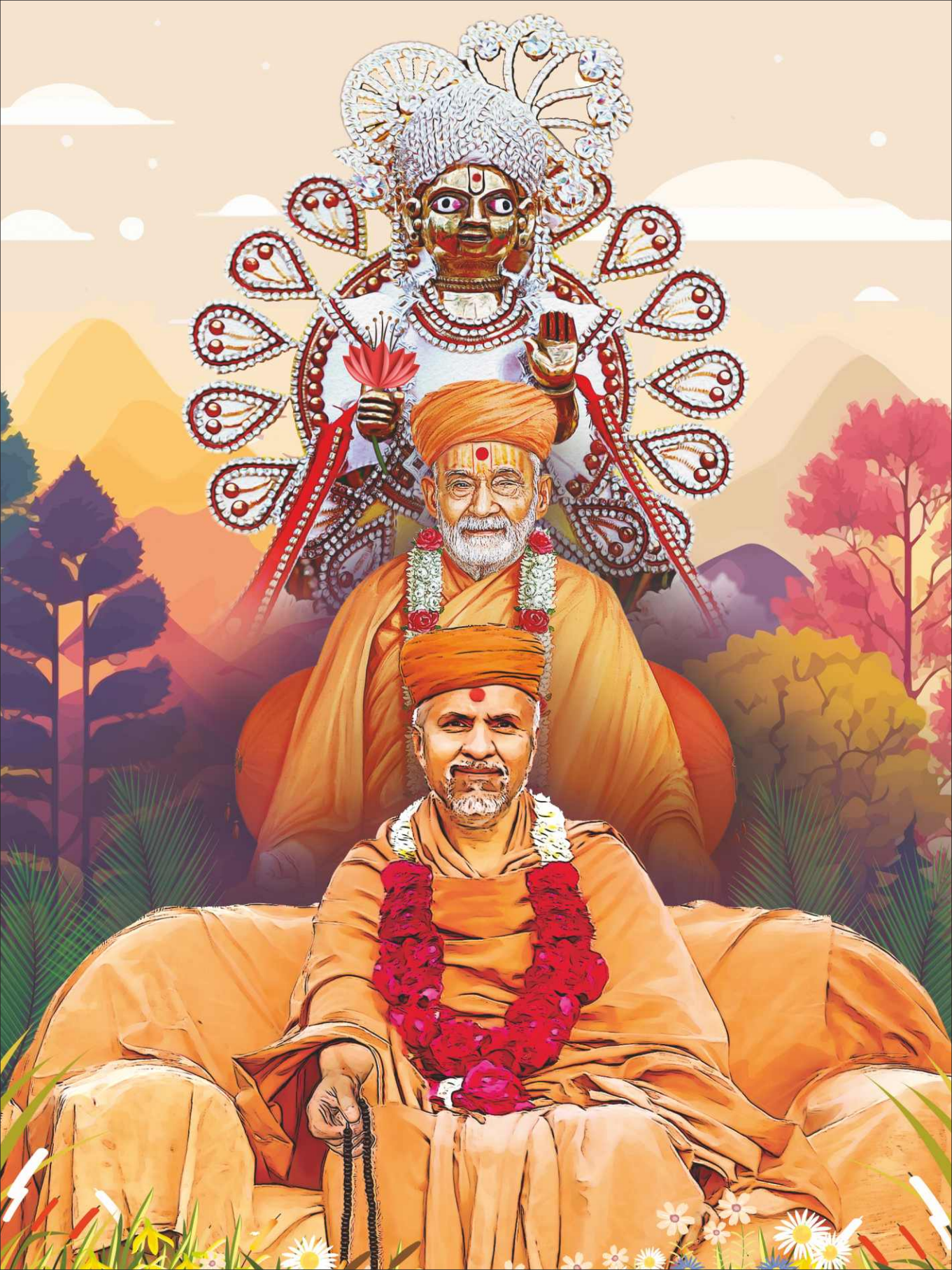


My Maharaj

My Guruji







My Maharaj My Guruji

Written and Translated by
Sahitya Lekhan Vibhag



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A Special Message for Maharaj's Divine Children.

Dear Mukto, Jay Swaminarayan...

Raji Rahejo,

Your childhood is like a growing plant since it can be bent in any direction you wish. Good company will make your life better and bad company will make your life worse.

Reading good things is like keeping good company in our life. We can take inspiration from it and make our life more prosperous. So, let's take inspiration from the stories of Maharaj and Motapurush in this booklet and fill our lives with good virtues.

We shall read and reflect upon this book to please our beloved Maharaj, Gurudev and Guruji.

Preface

It is a child's nature to learn from what it sees and is taught. Moreover, a child is more eager to learn from those who it considers its own.

Supreme Lord Swaminarayan, Jeevanpran Abjibapashree, HDH Bapji and HDH Swamishri belong to all of us, yet each of us feel that they belong to us individually.

The booklet, "My Maharaj, My Guruji," has been created with the aim to foster affection towards Shriji Maharaj and Guruji in children. This book has been designed in the form of a kids dialogue from which children can inscribe divine qualities and values in their life.

In this booklet, the pragatya and other divine events of Lord Swaminarayan, Bapashri, HDH Bapji and HDH Swamishri have been beautifully depicted.

We hope that the reading of this booklet allows children to develop affection and attachment towards Lord Swaminarayan and our dearest Guruji. We also wish this booklet inspires children to live virtuous lives.

Sahitya Lekhan Vibhag



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1 Lord's Manifestation

"Dear kids, till now you may have made many friends, but can I ask you one question? Do you have a friend that is always with you?" P. Sant asked the children in their weekly balsabha.

Divyam Maharaj said "Dayalu, we do have friends but some are at school or tuition or when we go to play. However, they are not with us everywhere!" P. Sant questioned, "Then, do you want a friend who is always with you? Someone who stays with you permanently and helps you in every situation?"

"Dayalu, Is it possible to have such a friend?"

"Yes, why not? If you want a friend like that, I shall help you befriend Him."

"Yes Dayalu! Please tell us quickly, who is this friend?" P. Sant said, "That friend is Ghanshyam Maharaj. Do you want to befriend little Ghanshyam Mahaprabhu?"

"Oh Ghanshyam Maharaj!?" The kids spoke with awe.



"Of course. Why not...?" Said P. Sant.

"But will Ghanshyam Maharaj become our friend?" one balmukta asked.

"Why wouldn't He?" P. Sant answered.

"Then yes, we definitely want to befriend Him" the balmuktas spoke with joy.

"Let's first get to know and recognize Ghanshyam Mahaprabhu" P. Sant replied pointing at Ghanshyam Maharaj's Murti.

"Yes...indeed..." balmuktas nodded approvingly.

"The golden day when our Ghanshyam Maharaj manifested was Samvat 1837, Chaitra sudnom at 10 pm.


The entire atmosphere had changed into something so divine and so magical. Peacocks, parrots, cuckoos, monkeys, rabbits and the chirping of many birds and animals also added joy to the atmosphere.

To hail the manifestation of dear Ghanshyam Mahaprabhu, infinite devotees from the sky began to shower Maharaj with sandalwood and flowers. Everyone's heart was overflowing with so much joy. Divine Lord Swaminarayan had manifested and was laying in Bhaktimata's lap. As soon as Ghanshyam Mahaprabhu manifested, the whole house illuminated with blissful radiance.

Just as the darkness vanishes as soon as the sun shines, similarly, when Lord Swaminarayan manifested the atmosphere turned divine. All the villagers eagerly gathered for Maharaj's darshan. Dharmadev's house began to overflow with devotees.

Bal Ghanshyam's divine face was glowing brightly. Everyone wanted to play





with Bal Ghanshyam. Such divinity! Such charm! Ghanshyam Maharaj started showing His Lordship right from His childhood and He gave happiness to everyone by doing bal leela.

"Dayalu, please tell us one of His bal leela." Said the children in excitement.

"Yes...of course...Listen. If anyone came to play with Ghanshyam Maharaj, they would not want to leave. Such was the magnetism of our Ghanshyam Maharaj. There would always be a line of devotees waiting for their turn to play with Maharaj. At times, Maharaj would put on so much weight that the devotee would not be able to carry Him. However, when the next person went to carry Him, He would go back to being as light as a feather.

No human being can perform such an extraordinary feat. This was only the starting of His endless divine bal leelas that followed. Like this, Mahaprabhu granted happiness to everyone with His bal leela," shared the P. Sant.

"Dayalu, if we make Him our friend, will He play with us like He played with His friends Veni, Prag, Raghunandan, Sukhnandan, etc?" Divyam asked the P. Sant.

"Yes, definitely! We have to make Him our best friend and then He will surely always stay with us."

"Then, how do we make Him our best friend?"

"Divyam Maharaj, first you have to firmly decide that you want to make Maharaj your best friend. Then, just the way you talk with your other friends on a daily basis, you have to talk to Maharaj for at least 5 minutes every day to make Him your best friend."

"Yes dayalu, I will definitely talk to Maharaj for 5 minutes daily."



: Moral :
We should make Ghanshyam Maharaj our best friend and talk with Him for 5 minutes every day.



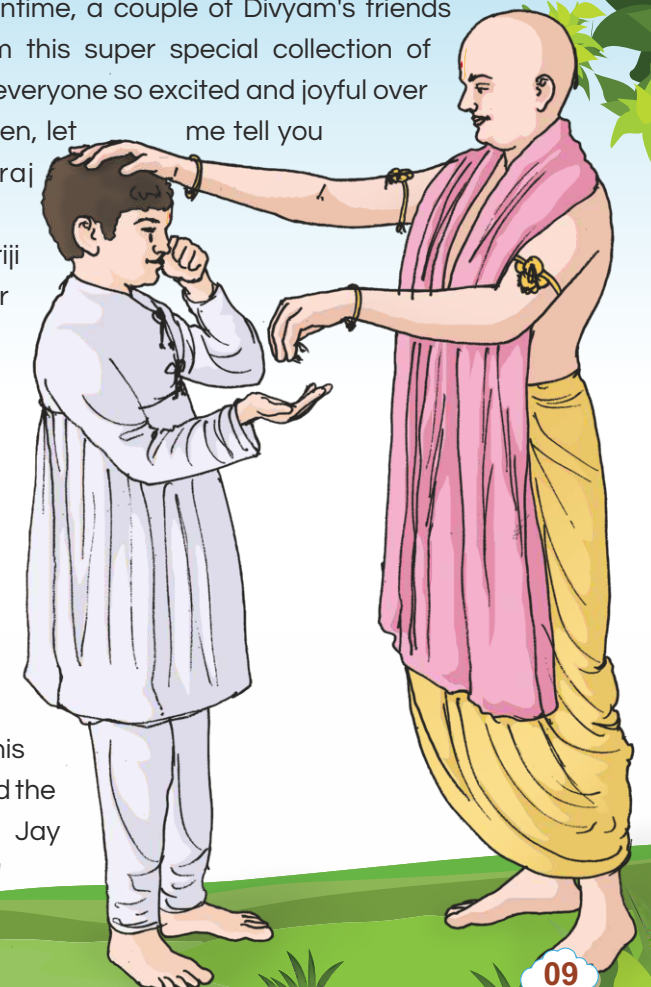
Today Divyam was very bored. He felt restless. He went to his mother and said, "Mom, I am feeling very bored today. Can you tell me what I should do?" Divyam's mother took him to the bedroom and showed him her super special collection. It was a collection of Maharaj's holy (prasadi) things like the real clothes, turbans and jewellery which Maharaj had adorned Himself. In the meantime, a couple of Divyam's friends came over to play. Divyam showed them this super special collection of Maharaj's holy things to his friends. Seeing everyone so excited and joyful over the holy items, Divyam's mom said, "Children, let me tell you an interesting incident of our Maharaj regarding one such holy thing:

This is a story of the time when Shriji Maharaj was residing in Gadhpur. A ten year old peasant boy had extreme love for Shriji Maharaj

This child wanted something from Maharaj so he can always remember Maharaj. So he tried to stay very close to Maharaj.

One day, Mahaprabhu called the barber of the village. At that time, the child was listening to the conversation between Maharaj and the barber.

When the barber was returning to his house, the child followed him and politely told the barber with folded hands, "O kind man! Jay Swaminarayan. I want to tell you something."



"What do you want to tell me?" asked the barber.

"I want Shriji Maharaj's divine kesh (hair) from you. Would you give me Maharaj's kesh tomorrow?" asked the child anxiously. Acknowledging the child's desire, the barber smiled and said, "OK! I will give you Maharaj's kesh tomorrow morning. Are you happy now?"

The child happily returned to his house.

The next morning, Maharaj was getting His head shaved. The child came and stood in a nearby corner. He was so happy to have gotten the darshan of Shree Hari. There was no limit to his joy today! Meanwhile, the barber finished shaving Shree Hari's head.

The barber picked up his shaving instruments and the kesh from the floor. He then left from the opposite side of the courtyard. He had completely forgotten about the promise he gave the child.

The child's inner desire was not fulfilled. So he started crying. Hearing the sound of sobbing in such a peaceful atmosphere, Shriji Maharaj went to the child. Seeing the child weeping in this manner, Maharaj also became sad. Shriji Maharaj cannot stand to see anyone unhappy, so how can He tolerate seeing an innocent child unhappy?

Shree Hari started caressing the child by moving His hands on the child's head. While caressing him, Shree Hari asked, "Oh my dear child! Why are you crying? Did anybody say something? Did anybody scold you?"

"Maharaj! No, it's nothing like that," the child sobbingly replied.

The child didn't mention his inner desire in his reply. So Shree Hari lovingly asked the child again, "My dear child, won't you tell Me? I know everything, but I want to hear it from you. Tell me why did you become so sad?"

Mahaprabhu's divinity made the child open up. He openly told Maharaj about the conversation between him and the barber the day before.

After listening to it, Mahaprabhu said, "Oh! You cried so much for such a small matter?"

"Here! I'll give you a lock from the tuft of my divine kesh. Okay!"

Shree Hari pulled some kesh from the tuft on his head and gave it to the child.

On receiving Mahaprabhu's divine kesh, the child became extremely happy.

Hearing the story of Shree Hari, the children were surprised: "Wow Lord Wow! How compassionate You are! To please one small child, You Yourself gave a prasadi of hair from Your own head! This child would have never forgotten Your grace...O lord! How dear are children to You!"

: Moral :
As Maharaj understood the feelings of this child, we should also understand the feelings of others.



Today Divyam's mother went to D Mart for grocery shopping and she got late. Divyam's elder sister asked him, "Brother, it seems that mummy will be late, so shall we try to cook dinner today?"

Divyam got excited and replied, "Sure Didi! Why not? Let's start to prepare our dinner. It's a great opportunity to prepare that for our beloved Maharaj. Maharaj will be very pleased with us. But what will we cook? We don't know how to cook anything."

"We should try to make khichdi. Maharaj will surely help us." Both the siblings tried very hard to cook dinner. They were both very excited, but the khichdi did not turn out to be so perfect. But, they still offered it to Maharaj.

Meanwhile, their mother returned home. She was delighted to see the devotion of her children. At the dinner table, she praised them for the tasty khichdi.

Divyam asked, "Why are you praising us, Mother, when the Khichdi is half-cooked and bland?"

Mummy replied, "It really doesn't matter. What matters most is your love and dedication towards Maharaj. That's what Maharaj wants from you." Then she told a delightful story about Maharaj.

"Once, Junagadh city became blessed with Maharaj's divine presence. The whole Junagadh city was decorated with flags, banners and confetti. All the roads were filled with so many people who were eager for Maharaj's darshan. To celebrate the divine occasion, some Kathis fired guns in the air and some showed their sword skills. Some were playing the drums and other musical instruments. Everyone lined up to welcome Maharaj's big procession.



They were enchanted by Maharaj's majestic entry in a golden seat on top of a decorated elephant.

Maharaj was giving darshan to please His devotees and to fulfill their wishes. Every nook and corner of Junagadh was bustling with joy. Maharaj's procession was moving towards the main market. Devotees were offering different gifts to Maharaj with love.

A young, poor cucumber vendor boy was watching all this. He also wished to offer something to the Lord. He thought, "Everyone is offering so many expensive gifts to Maharaj. I should also do the same. But what can a poor boy like me offer to Maharaj? I only have cucumbers, so rather than selling it to some other person, I should offer it to Maharaj to please Him."

The boy was standing at the side of the busy road with tremendous joy. It was very crowded as thousands of devotees eagerly awaited a glimpse of Maharaj. Who will even notice this young boy at the side of the busy street? But Maharaj is pleased with one's true devotion rather than expensive gifts. So, Maharaj halted the procession and signalled the boy to come near Him. Maharaj kept looking at the boy lovingly. The boy was delighted that he got a chance to have a closer darshan of Maharaj. His faithful love and devotion could clearly be seen in his eyes. He had nothing but a cucumber to offer to Maharaj. An ocean of mercy, Maharaj spotted the cucumber in his little hands and the hesitation in his eyes. It was then; Maharaj extended His hand from His seat on the elephant and took the cucumber! How pleased He must be with the boy's devotion! The Lord of Akshardham Himself had accepted his cucumber. His heart leaped with joy.

Maharaj started to eat that cucumber during the procession. The boy was thrilled to see this so he joyfully started dancing with others. He was so pleased to see Maharaj eating his cucumber amidst this huge procession. He kept doing darshan of Maharaj with folded hands. Now the procession was nearing the Palace.

All balconies of Junagadh Palace were filled with courtiers to have darshan of the divine procession. Even the king of Junagadh himself was present to welcome Maharaj. However, Maharaj was so pleased with the boy's affection that He continued eating the cucumber.

Divyam turned to his Didi and said, "Really, Maharaj is so fond of children. Maharaj continued eating the cucumber because it was offered so lovingly! Maharaj is always present in our Ghar mandir. If I do all the seva with true devotion, will Maharaj accept it too?" His sister replied, "Of course! Maharaj will surely accept it if you do your seva with love and dedication."



: Moral :
We should do at least one
seva with love and devotion
daily to please our Maharaj.

4 Bapashree's Manifestation



When Divyam heard how Maharaj left this mortal world at the age of just 49 years, he became very sad. Seeing him so low, his father told him about a wonderful incident.

"In Samvat 1885, Shreeji Maharaj had gotten sick in the Gadhpur village. He declared that these would be His last days. This news spread like wildfire and everyone got worried. All the sants and devotees flooded to Gadhpur for Maharaj's last darshan. A group of devotees from Kutch also came for Maharaj's darshan. They were unhappy and asked Maharaj, "Dayalu, You blessed us with your divine presence in Kutch for seven years. However, did we commit any mistake that you have not come to Kutch for the past 18 years? How unfortunate are we that we are deprived of your darshan for so many years!"

Maharaj replied, "All the Kutch devotees are very dear to me. You all have

pleased me with your love and devotion. But these are My last days on this earth. I am going to leave soon." Hearing His words, all the devotees started to cry. Maharaj, the sea of compassion and kindness, could not see them so sad. He said, "I will not be able to come to Kutch anymore, but do not be sad. Our Sankalp swaroop will be born in Kutch, and He will bless you all."

On hearing this, Ratna bhakt from Baladiya couldn't hide his excitement and hurriedly asked Maharaj, "Where will this Sankalp Swaroop be born?" Maharaj blessed him by saying, "He will be born in your village."

The Kutch devotees returned home after receiving this blessing. Everyone remembered this and impatiently waited for 15 years. Finally, the divine moment had arrived.

In Samvat 1901, Kartika Sud Ekadashi (Prabodhini Ekadashi), a divine mukt was born in Baladiya to Panchapita and Devba. This divine mukt is none other than Shriji Sankalp Murti Jivanpran Abjibapashree, whom we lovingly know as "Bapashree."

Every morning, Devba used to go to Kali Talavadi (a pond in Baladiya) to bathe. One day, Maharaj gave her divine darshan and asked her to wish for something. Seeing Maharaj's glorious and radiant form, Devba became very captivated and asked Him for a son just like Maharaj. Maharaj replied, "There is no one else like us, but you will be soon blessed with a son who is just like us. He will redeem innumerable souls by Our divine will."

At the time of Bapashree's pragatya, the atmosphere became very divine. Birds started to chirp sweetly, and the Muktas showered flowers and sandalwood from the sky. Divine light was seen surrounding the home and sweet aroma spread everywhere. This heavenly atmosphere signalled Bapashree's pragatya. Everyone started to celebrate.

To fulfil His resolve to remain on this earth for 125 years and to further propagate His principles, Maharaj manifested through the form of Bapashree.

"Ohh...Papa! Maharaj has sent Bapashree to fulfill His Sankalp. I am so glad I got to be a part of such a divine royal family."

: Moral :

We should acknowledge Bapashree's Mahima and be incredibly proud of being Bapa's children.



5 Gurudev's Manifestation

In the last balsabha, the sanchalak had announced, "We will celebrate Gurudev HDH Bapji's Pragatya din in the next balsabha." Today, the time for the celebration has arrived, and Divyam was overjoyed. When he reached the Balsabha, he saw that the P. Sants and the other children were busy with the preparations. One child was curious to know if there was any divine tale behind Gurudev Bapji's Pragatya. P. Sant replied, "Of course! Just as our Amirpedhi is Maharaj's special gift to us, our Gurudev Bapji's Pragatya is also a special gift to us." On hearing this, all the children started to clap and cheer with joy. The P. Sant continued, "Abjibapashree's pragatya was by Maharaj's divine blessings. Do you all know who our Bapa is?"

One child replied, "Yes, my Bapa always wore white clothes and tied a white turban."

"True, Abjibapashree used to visit different places for Vicharan. During one of His vichran trips to the Nalkantha villages, he reached the Vasva village, where He inaugurated the Murtis in the ladies' temple. Jethabhai requested Bapashree to come and bless the Vasan village.

Bapashree accepted his request and reached Vasan. Everyone welcomed Bapashree with great joy and devotion. The drums were played and kirtans were sung. Bapashree visited Jethabhai's home. Jethabhai welcomed Bapashree warmly and prayed, "Dayalu, always remain pleased on me and shower your blessings on this house by permanently residing here with Maharaj."

Bapashree was very pleased with Jethabhai's selfless devotion. Laljibhai prayed to Bapashree on behalf of Jethabhai, "Bapa, Jethabhai is a very kind and innocent devotee. With your blessings, he is very happy and content, but he has no sons. Please bless him with a son."

Hearing this, Bapashree instantly showered His blessings,



"Jethabhai, Maharaj is very pleased with you. You will be blessed with not one but two sons, but on one condition."

Jethabhai became impatient and hurriedly asked, "What is the condition, Bapa?" Bapashree replied, "You will be blessed with two sons but, 'Aadha tumhara, aadha Hamara' (Half yours, half Ours)."

Thus, according to Bapashree's blessings, on 13th March 1933, the auspicious day of Dhuleti (Holi), Devubhai was born to Dholiba, whom we know as our Gurudev Bapji.

As such, Gurudev Bapji's pragatya was through Bapashree's blessings which is why Gurudev Bapji always prioritized and followed Maharaj's and Bapashree's principles. He never allowed the slightest compromise in the supreme principles, even under the harshest conditions. He established the SMVS organization to propagate these principles for eternity. Gurudev Bapji spent His whole life for this holy purpose, so now what's our duty?"

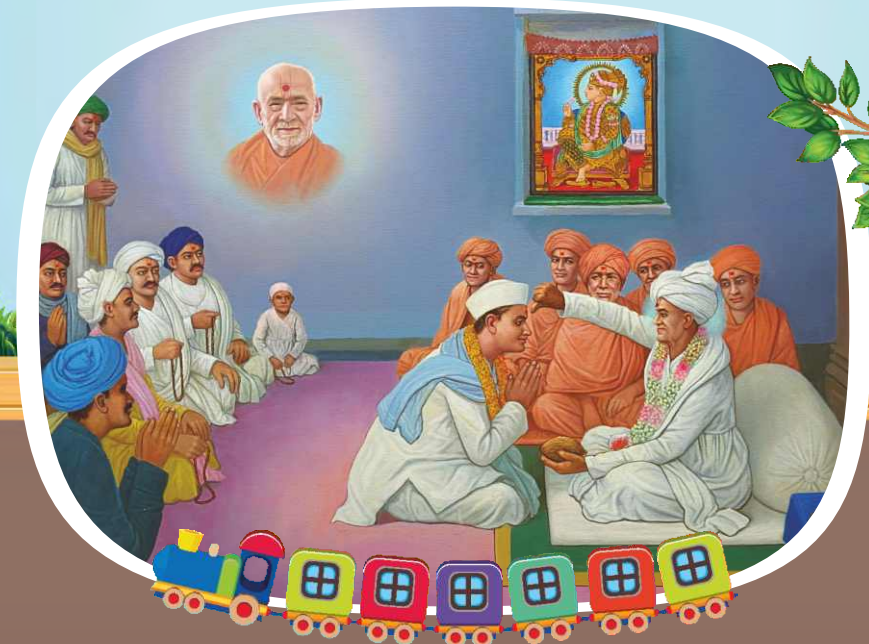
Divyam replied, "We should also follow and spread these principles. We should always be ready to do any seva Gurudev Bapji grants us, be it physical, mental, or financial."

P. Sant said, "That's correct. On His Pragatya day, we shall promise our Gurudev Bapji, 'O dear Gurudev! We will follow Maharaj's and Bapashree's principles until our last breath and spread them worldwide. Please give us strength to do this by all means.'"

Divyam said, "Today, I understand the divinity of our Gurudev Bapji! I feel so blessed to be His son. This Satpurush is my mother, and I am His dear son."

: Moral :

We should be filled with Gurudev Bapji's Mahima and share it with others.



6 Guruji's Manifestation

Divyam attends balsabha regularly and completes his homework on time.

Everyone, including his parents and Sants, are pleased on him. Divyam learned about Gurudev Bapji's divine pragatya story in his last balsabha; he considered himself very blessed to have Gurudev Bapji as his Guru.

But at the same time, Divyam was also curious about HDH Swamishri's Pragatya. So, he thought, "Gurudev Bapji's pragatya was due to Bapashree's divine blessings, but what about our HDH Swamishri? Is there any interesting history about Him as well? He is also a Satpurush, so there might also be a divine tale about Him" He decided to ask the P. Sant in the next balsabha. So, the next balsabha, he reached earlier than the sabha's time and requested the P. Sant to inform him about HDH Swamishri's Pragatya.

The P. Sant happily shared, "Our Guruji, HDH Swamishree, was born due to the divine blessings of Sadguru Muniswami, who is the Guru of Gurudev Bapji. Whenever Muniswami went to Daduka for vichran, He used to stay there for 8-10 days. During one of His vichran to Danduka, Keshavlal Nandani came for Muniswami's darshan. He had no children. Gurudev Bapji prayed to Sadguru Muniswami on behalf of Keshavlal.

Divyam got excited and asked, "Same as our Gurudev Bapji! Sadguru also blessed Keshavlal like Bapashree, "Aadha tumhara, aadha hamara!" right?" The P. Sant replied, "Yes, That's absolutely true." Divyam said, "Both of our Satpurush got similar blessings. Gurudev Bapji's pragatya was due to the divine



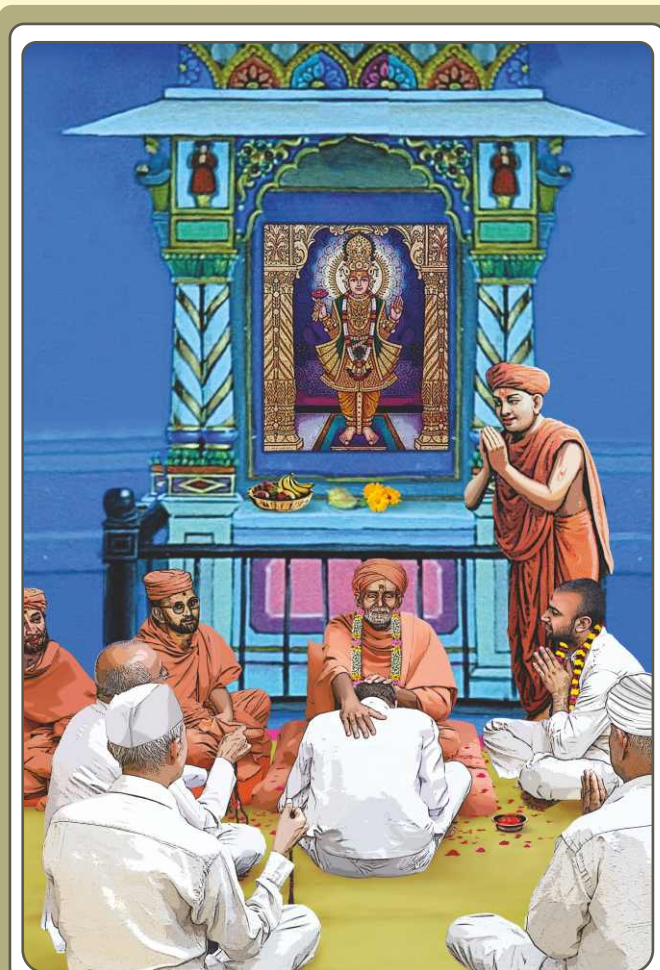
blessings of Bapshree and HDH Swamishri by the blessings of Sadguru Muniswami. That's why Gurudev Bapji always used the phrase 'Amari bhagidaari pedhi che' (we have a joint business)

The divine moment arrived on 8-10-1959, on the auspicious day of Dussehra, when HDH Swamishri was born to Narmadaba and Keshavlalbai. That is the pragatya date of our dearest Guruji. On that day, the atmosphere became so divine, and everyone felt delighted.

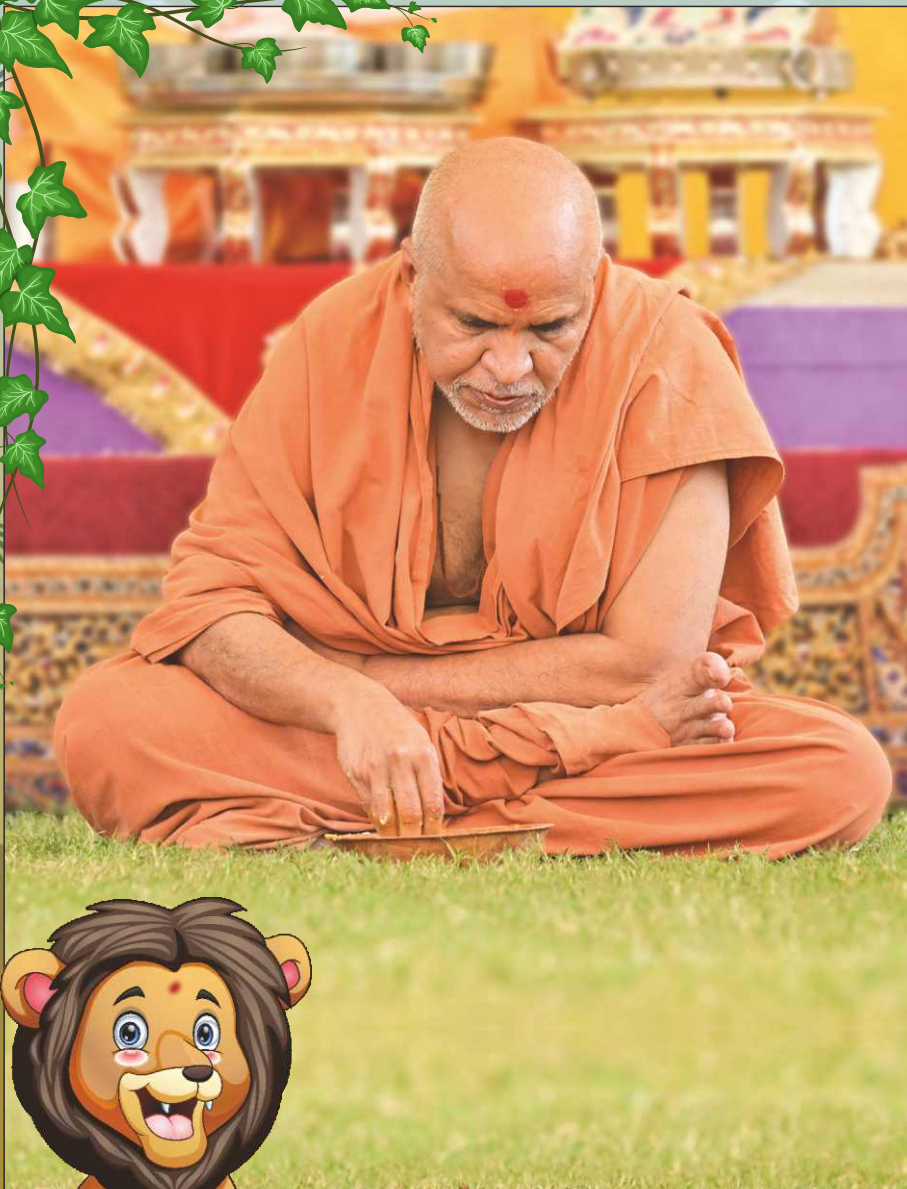
Daduka became a blessed location due to His divine manifestation. Sadguru Muniswami named Him 'Ghanshyam'. Since childhood, Ghanshyam exemplified all the virtues to please our Maharaj.

"Thank you, Dayalu! I feel so proud to have been gifted with two divine Satpurushes as my Guru. Such divine pragatya tales! Such greatness! Such superiority! I cannot compare to their greatness or divinity, yet they accepted me as His son! I am so blessed!"

: Moral :
Reflect upon how blessed we are to have gotten the Divine gift of such an extraordinary Guruji!



7 Brazilian Nuts



"During my vacation, I spend time with the P. Santo daily, listening to various stories about Guruji's life and I Learn good morals from them," shared Divyam. His excitement was evident as he spoke to his friends. His friends eagerly awaited what Divyam had to share, as he narrated the following.

The P. Sants had recently travelled to London for a Satsang vichran. During their visit, they brought back a particular type of nuts called 'Brazilian Nuts.' Upon returning to Swaminarayan Dham, they offered these nuts to Maharaj and then to Guruji.

At that moment, Guruji inquired, "Have these been offered to Gurudev?"

The P. Sant replied, "Dayalu, He may not prefer them due to the firmness."

Guruji decided to taste the nuts and remarked, "Send them to Gurudev. He will accept them." The P. Sant nodded and added, "Dayalu, we will send them to Gurudev Bapji, but please keep some for yourself."

Guruji advised the P. Sant by saying, "First, we will offer them to Gurudev Bapji, then we will distribute them amongst the P.Sants. If any are leftover, I will have them. We must always prioritize Gurudev Bapji in our life and shall never forget this."

"Oh, now I understand, Divyam! That's where you inherit these good morals in your life. It's from these inspiring stories that P. Sant tells you about your Guruji, right?" Sahaj asked excitedly. "Yes, Sahaj, you're absolutely right. That is the reason I enjoy spending time with the P. Sant during my vacations. I learn so many valuable lessons from their stories about our beloved Guruji," Divyam replied.

"Thank you, Divyam! For showing us how we can learn values from Guruji's life, and make our lives outstanding," Sahaj expressed gratefully.

"Exactly! After all, we are Guruji's sons and we must walk in His footsteps. Let's learn from this incident that, just how Guruji doesn't eat anything new until everyone else has gotten it, we too shall not eat anything without offering it to Guruji first. He Guruji! I am sorry for all the times I have eaten things without offering it to you. Please forgive me. From now on, I won't eat anything without offering it to you first," Divyam concluded.

: Moral :

We should always offer everything to Maharaj, Bapa, Gurudev Bapji, and Guruji Swamishri first.

We should also always share everything with our parents and siblings.

8 Our True Mother



Divyam was engrossed in writing his personal diary when his best friend, Satyam, entered his study room. As Satyam settled down, Divyam handed him the diary, and Satyam began reading it. While going through the diary, Satyam was reminded of a divine incident involving Guruji that filled him with awe.

Divyam: Hey, Satyam! What's going on? You seem to be lost in your thoughts?

Satyam: Oh, yes! I just recalled a remarkable incident of Guruji.

Divyam: Tell me about it!

Satyam: Sure, why not! On November 2022, Guruvarya HDH Swamishri visited Gota. A few devotees' homes were selected for Harikrushna Maharaj and Guruji's padhramani. As a part of His daily routine, Guruji performed the morning aarti, meditation, mala and gyan-dhyan chintan. Thereafter, Guruji delivered a discourse to a few devotees. Around 8:30 a.m., Guruji, accompanied by P. Sants, prepared to leave for the padhramani. I also got the opportunity to join them. Standing near the elevator and admiring Maharaj and Guruji was a young boy who greeted Guruji with "Jay Swaminarayan" and prayed for His eternal blessings.

The P. Sants introduced the child to Guruji, saying, "This is Shlok Maharaj. He regularly attends the balsabha and is currently a part of the ABS project. None of his family members are associated with Satsang, yet he remains faithful and determined. His father doesn't attend Satsang, and he has lost his mother."

Upon hearing this, Guruji lovingly caressed the child's head and said, "Shlok Maharaj, don't ever think that you don't have a mother. We are your parents. We are your mother. You are Maharaj's and our child." Guruji then embraced the child affectionately.

Witnessing Guruji's comforting affection and motherly love, I was overwhelmed by His greatness. I pondered, "Guruji, even as a Motapurush, you show so much love and care for a young boy. Truly, you are our only parent, our true mother. You shower the selfless love that no one else can provide."



: Moral :

Guruji is our true mother, and we should strive to be His beloved children.



9 Thank You



It was the day of the balsabha. Divyam had a fracture in his leg. He thought, "What if I don't go today? It's okay to miss one sabha. After all, I regularly attend it and have never missed a single sabha. However, Guruji always says that one should never miss the weekly balsabha under any circumstances. Guruji also gets really pleased upon balmuktas who never miss their sabha. I too want to please my Guruji, but how will I go with this fracture?"

Just then, his friends, Dhyey, Kirtan and Ghanshyam arrived at his home. They asked him, "Divyam, do you want to come to balsabha?"



Hearing this, Divyam's face lit up. He said, "I was thinking about coming, but how will I come with this fracture?"

Hearing this, his friends said, "Don't worry, Divyam. We'll help you." Divyam reached the balsabha with their help.

Upon reaching, their sanchalak expressed rajipo on Divyam. The sanchalak said, "Divyam, you came to balsabha despite the fracture in your leg for which Maharaj, Bapa, Gurudev Bajji and Guruji would be really pleased upon you. Your friends helped you, so did you thank them for their help?"

"No, I haven't. I totally forgot."

The sanchalak taught, "Our Guruji is the Guru of the whole SMVS organization where everyone eagerly tries to gain His rajipo. Yet, He expresses His gratitude by saying 'Thank You' in the tiniest of matters. Let me tell you all about one such incident:

Our beloved Guruji had come to the Adarsh Bal Sabha (ABS) camp to give His divine discourse and to make His children happy. He was giving divine labh to the balmuktas when He needed a pen to explain something. He then asked the children, "Can someone lend a pen?"

Balmuktas came running, "Take this...take this...Guruji!" saying this, they offered about 25 pens to Guruji. He was pleased to see the collective emotions of the balmuktas and said, "Thank you, Mukto, We wanted just one pen, and you gave us so many. Thank you."

After listening to this incident, Divyam realized his mistake. He said to the sanchalak, "Whenever someone helps me, I shall definitely say thank you to them."

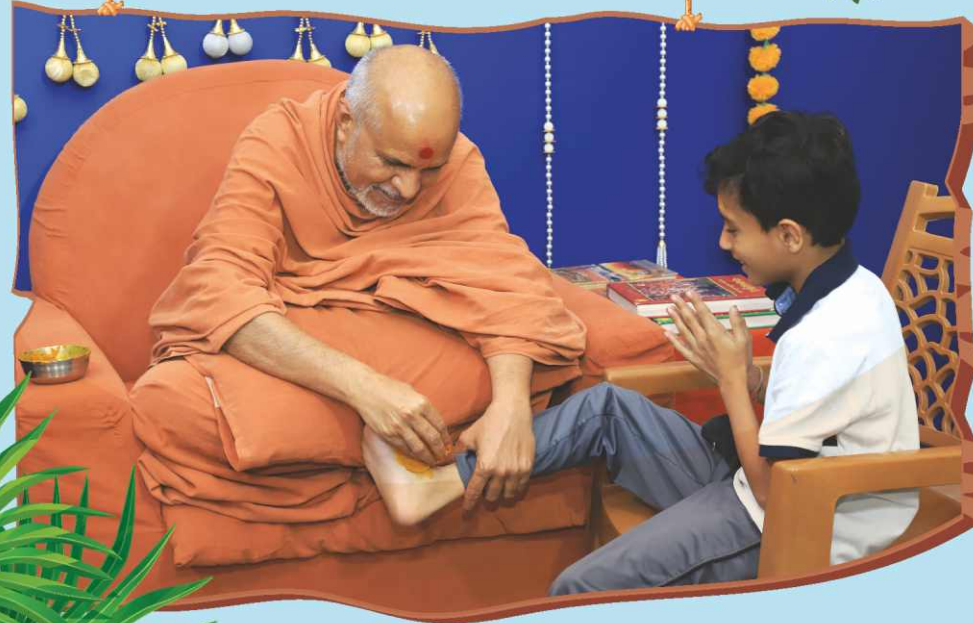
Seeing Divyam, the other boys present in the sabha also promised to say 'Thank you' in return of any favours they receive.

: Moral :

Always say 'thank you' to anyone who helps us.



10 Divine Care



Divyam has a younger brother named Sankalp. Due to this young age, Sankalp does not attend balsabha. However, Divyam has brought Sankalp along with him in today's balsabha. He thought that Sankalp would get a chance to do P. Sant's darshan at the end of the sabha.

Seeing a new face, the P. Sant asked Divyam during darshan, "Dayalu, who is this?"

Divyam replied, "He is my younger brother, Sankalp."

The P. Sant had never seen Sankalp attending the balsabha. He hence questioned, "Why don't you bring your younger brother along

with you during every balsabha?"

Divyam answered, "He cannot stay away from our mother. He needs the help of our mother in all the activities."

The P. Sant questioned Sankalp, "Sankalp Maharaj, do you always need your mother's help?" Sankalp replied, "Dayalu, I am very young. If something happens, who shall take care of me? My mother always takes care of me. She takes care of all my worries, health and belongings."

The P. Sant said, "Do you know about our Gurujiji and His motherly nature? How Gurujiji takes care of each individual! Let me tell you about an incident regarding Gurujiji's love and care. A five day Bal camp was organized at Swaminarayan Dham, especially for the Australian balmuktas. One balmukt named Aarav Thakkar had also come from Canada to attend the camp. On 14th December 2022, Gurujiji came to the balcamp to give His divine labh to all balmuktas. In the presence of Gurujiji, a gunanuvaad session was going on. One balmukt named Bhavy Ghanshyambhai Patel's gunanuvaad was going on for his kind and compassionate nature. Aarav had sprained his ankle and could not walk, so Bhavy carried Aarav on his shoulders to bring him to sabha.

Upon hearing this, our Gurujiji, embodiment of kindness, asked, "Aarav Maharaj! What has happened to you?" Aarav replied, "Gurujiji! I have sprained my ankle."

Our Gurujiji, who showers motherly love on each and every soul, immediately instructed the P. Sants, "Please bring a warm paste of turmeric and salt, immediately. Aarav Maharaj has sprained his ankle, so we shall apply the paste to his leg. When else will we get a chance to serve Maharaj's divine mukt?"

P. Sants brought the paste. Gurujiji made Aarav sit in a chair with his leg stretched forward. Gurujiji applied the paste with His own divine hands on the sprained area. It was only after Gurujiji applied the paste to Aarav Maharaj's leg, that He felt relieved and started the sabha. He showered His divine love upon Aarav to make him happy. Such motherly affection! It's wonderful how he considers all the children as His own sons! How Gurujiji was worried for His son's health! Sankalp was astonished to hear this incident and exclaimed, "Gurujiji takes care of such tiniest matters too?!"

P. Sant replied, "Of course, Gurujiji is our true mother. We are His sons. He takes care of us more than our mother ever could."

: Moral :

Taking inspiration from Gurujiji, we too shall learn to care for others. From today onwards, let's promise to take care of all our family members.

11 It's Prasad!



"Divyam, it's dinner time! Come, let's eat. Food is served on the table." Called Divyam's mother. Divyam was hungry and rushed to the dining room. As soon as he saw what was for dinner, his joy converted into anger. He angrily told his mother, "What is this? Why do you prepare khichdi everyday? You made brinjals for lunch today, and now khichdi? I hate it. I am not going to eat it." Divyam angrily refused to eat the dinner and started sulking. Divyam fussed about food almost everyday. He had a long list regarding his likes and dislikes for food. He grew more and more picky about his preferences with each passing day.



Divyam's grandfather told him a story about Guruji and discussed its moral with Divyam before going to sleep everyday. Today, Divyam's grandfather told him about a special incident.

On 25th December 2010, Sunday, a divine shobhayatra (procession) was organized for Godhar's re-Murti pratishtha. Guruvarya HDH Swamishri personally arrived at the location to

inspect the arrangements. A few muktos from Vadodara were present for seva. Guruji asked them whether or not they had breakfast. Guruji also asked the youngest mukt, Sahaj, "Did you have breakfast?"

Sahaj replied, "Yes, Guruji, I had breakfast."

Guruji asked a second question, "What did you have for breakfast?"

Sahaj replied, "Chavanu." (Snack mix)

Guruji asked a third question, "Was the chavanu offered to Maharaj before you ate it?"

Sahaj nodded his head in confirmation.

Guruji said, "Once we offer a banana to Maharaj do we say 'take this banana' when offering it to someone else?"

Sahaj replied, "Nooo..."

"Then what do we say?" asked Guruji.

"After being offered to Maharaj, we call it Prasad." Sahaj answered.

Guruji explained, "Once the chavanu was offered to Maharaj, it also becomes prasad, does it not?" Sahaj finally understood what Guruji was hinting and replied, "Yes, Dayalu, I had prasad for breakfast today."

"Very good!" Guruji replied while lovingly patting Sahaj's cheeks.

Upon hearing this incident, Divyam shared his thoughts with his grandfather. Guruji wishes we should not even utter the name of the food item and instead, consider it as prasad. Whereas, I throw tantrums for food every day. Once the thaal has been offered to Maharaj, it becomes prasad. Guruji wouldn't be pleased with my behavior, would He?"

"Yes, Divyam, I am trying to explain the same thing. After that, the food item no longer remains ordinary. It becomes prasad. There should be no fights and fuss over prasad. Guruji shall not be pleased. You want to become Guruji's favorite son, don't you? So, from today onwards, promise to never be upset over what is cooked and rather, accept everything that is served as prasad.

Divyam agreed, "Okay, Grandpa! I shall follow this rule."

: Moral :

Everything that is offered to Maharaj in the thal it becomes prasad, and we should never say no to prasad.





12 Becoming Guruji's Favorite

30

Divyam was doing his math homework. He started solving all the tricky problems very quickly. His elder brother gave him a question from his textbook to test Divyam. Divyam quickly solved that problem too! His brother was surprised to see Divyam easily solve a question from a higher grade textbook.

So, he questioned, "Divyam! How did you solve this math problem?" Divyam replied, "For one week, a math teacher at school taught us how to solve problems using an effortless technique. I practiced that technique for over a week. So, now I can solve the toughest problems instantly with that technique."

"Ohhh...! Now I understand the secret to your math problem-solving skills." His brother replied. "Divyam, just as there is an easy technique to solve math problems similarly, there is also an easy technique to please Maharaj and Motapurush. Guruji has taught us this technique." Divyam eagerly said, "Brother, please teach me that technique too. I want to please Our Guruji as well."

In 2015, Guruji visited all the centres for regional shibirs. The devotees' hearts were filled with joy in the divine presence of Guruji. Grand celebrations were also done when Guruji arrived at Mehsana. Bal muktos were ready to welcome Guruji with a whiteboard, on which was written, 'Guruji, agnya karo, taiyaar chhiye' (Guruji! Command anything, we are forever ready!).

Guruji sat down with the bal muktos and asked them the purpose behind writing this sentence. The bal muktos tried explaining the purpose in their naive language. Guruji gave the key to rapidly progress on the spiritual path and said, "You have written this sentence on the board. It really pleased us. However, you should not write it just for the sake of writing. Otherwise, it would be considered showing off. We should become obedient and be ready to follow any commands we are given in life. Only then Maharaj, Bapashree, Gurudev, and We would be pleased. Never do anything just to show off."

"So, brother, we should do everything genuinely. All my actions should be genuine to please Guruji, right?"

"Yes, exactly."

Guruji further explained, "If you do things just for show, you will become a fake person. So, our balmukts should never be superficial."

"Brother, Thank you for giving me this technique to easily win this spiritual path too. I shall now always follow Maharaj's and Guruji's commands and please Them."

: Moral :

We should always pray to Guruji, 'Guruji, agnya karo, taiyaar chhiye' We should also follow the promises and commitments we make to Guruji.

31

13

Are You Happy Now!?

One day Divyam visited Swaminarayan Dham with his family. While visiting the Anadimukt Pithika for Darshan, he met his old friend, Akshay Bhudiya.

Divyam said, "Jay Swaminarayan Akshay, since you live so close to Swaminarayan Dham, you probably get Divine labh regularly; Guruji's darshan! His discourses! His divine presence! right?"



Akshay said, "Yes Divyam, here we get labh of Guruji's Divine presence very frequently; it is so amazing." Let me tell you about a recent incident that occurred with me. Previously, when I lived in Vasna, I would wake up at 5:00 in the morning, take a bath and go to our Vasna temple to do pooja. After the pooja, I would do Mangla Aarti Darshan at 6:00. Gurudev Bapji used to get really pleased with me. I recited the Mangla Arti in the microphone everyday when I lived in Vasna. This made Gurudev Bapji even more pleased upon me. Then, according to Guruji's wish, we moved to Swaminarayan Dham. Here, I still came to Mangla Arti daily but I hadn't gotten the labh of reciting the Mangla Arti in the mic since since it is the Gurukul balmuktas who do it. So I would stand beside the balmukt who sang Arti, looking at the microphone and hoping to get a chance to sing.

Whenever Guruji came to Mangla Arti, He would look at me and understand my feelings. In the evening, I would go to the Sant Ashram for Kirtan Bhakti and Cheshta with Guruji and P. Sants.

One day Guruji looked at me and said, "Akshay Maharaj recited Mangla Arti everyday. In Vasna but doesn't get the chance to do so here since there are Gurukul balmuktas. When Gurukul balmuktas aren't present every Sunday, Vinodbhai sings the Arti. Now, that labh must be given to Akshay Maharaj. When he stands beside the balmukt who sings Arti, We feel heartbroken, thinking, what if Akshay Maharaj feels hurt being refused to sing the Mangla Arti! So, from now onwards give him a chance to sing every Sunday. Akshay Maharaj, are you happy now?!"

"This is how Guruji understood my feelings without me uttering even a single word. Even a mother cannot understand such trivial emotions."

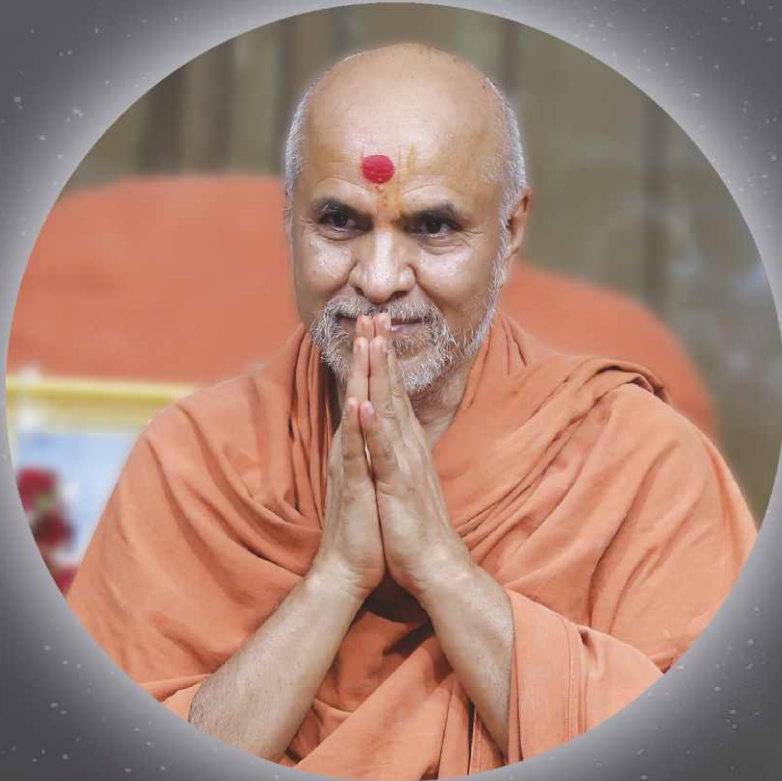
Divyam said, "It's astounding how Guruji understands everyone's emotions! Guruji is Guruji! The true mother of everyone! No one can compare to Him!"



: Moral:
We should learn to understand others' feelings and emotions. We should ensure no one is hurt by our words or actions.

14

A Whole Night in the Cold



Divyam had a good habit of always sharing whatever happened during the day with his mother. He described an incident at his school: "Today, I was about to have lunch, and I saw a boy crying in the corner of the class. When I asked what was wrong, he told me he comes from a low-income family with financial problems. His parents

struggle to pay his school fees and cannot provide him lunch daily. He was crying because he was starving. So I happily gave him my lunchbox. Did I do the right thing?"

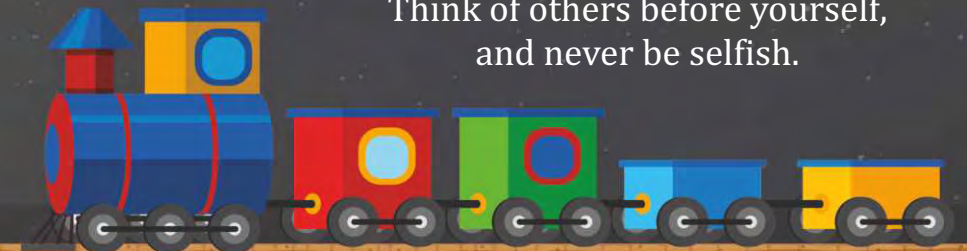
Divyam's mother was delighted, "Of course! You absolutely did the right thing. I am sure Guruji is very pleased on you. Our Guruji is an ocean of kindness and compassion. Let me share a similar incident of our Guruji."

On 19th March, 2022, Guruji and some devotees were traveling to Mumbai in a train. Guruji gave His divine labh to all. After some time, He instructed everyone to sleep, and soon everyone was fast asleep. However, the train compartment had turned really cold because of the high A.C. Guruji had a blanket for Himself, but how can our Guruji, who always puts others before Himself, sleep peacefully without checking on others? So, in the middle of the night, He got up to check on everyone and noticed that one young mukt was shivering without a blanket and sleeping in a crouched position. Guruji could not bear this and so, He gave His own blanket to that mukt. That mukt pleaded to Guruji to not do so. But Guruji gave it to him and spent the whole night without a blanket Himself! In the morning, His legs became stiff due to the extreme cold. However, Guruji preferred to help others instead of thinking about Himself. This is the divine kindness our Guruji always showers wherever He goes.

Divyam got very emotional after hearing this: "Mummy, like Guruji, I will also think of helping others even if I have to bear some trouble myself."

: Moral :

Always help anybody who is in need.
Think of others before yourself,
and never be selfish.



15 I Will Not Leave Your Finger

A task had been assigned in today's balsabha; everyone had to find an unknown incident about Guruji from P. Sants or their sanchalak. They also had to decide on some action points to implement in their lives from the incident. Divyam hurried over to his sanchalak and requested him to tell him an incident. After all, his sanchalak had just spent a week with Guruji in Vichran, so Divyam would get the most recent incident from him.

His sanchalak gladly shared an incident, "On 24th February, 2023, Guruji was in Rajkot for a two day shibir. In the evening, Guruji had a Yuva Shibir, and after dinner, Guruji came to the Sant Ashram for niyam cheshta. One young boy named Varni Soni, studying in the second grade, came for Guruji's darshan. Varni performed a dandvat

to Guruji from afar. Guruji was walking while doing cheshta. Varni held Guruji's finger and started to walk with Guruji.

5 minutes passed.... 10 minutes passed... However, Varni did not let go of Guruji's finger until cheshta was finished.

Varni's father, Milanbhai Soni, apologized to Guruji, "Varni did not leave Your finger even for a minute during the whole cheshta. Please forgive him if he has troubled You."

Guruji replied, "No...No... We have not been troubled. Varni has such a strong spiritual bond with Us, so he likes to stay with Us." Guruji requested the P. Sants to bring fruit prasad and gave the prasad to Varni Maharaj to make him happy.

Divyam said, "Guruji did not feel any trouble holding Varni's hand during the whole cheshta, and Varni's wish was kindly fulfilled. Thank you, for helping me finish my balsabha homework."

: Moral :
We should develop a
mother-son like bond
with Guruji.

16 Ved's Tears



P. Sants were giving labh in a balsabha on, the kindness of our Maharaj and Motapurush. Divyam asked, "How kind are they?"

P. Sant replied, "Let me share one incident of Guruji. From 23rd to 26th December 2022, our Guruji was in Surat during regional vichran. On 25th December, Guruji gave His divine labh in the yuva sammelan (youth convention). In the end, all the devotees took Guruji's blessings personally. During that time, one balmukt named, Ved Sheldiya requested to take a picture with Guruji as a blessed memory. The photography team agreed and clicked a photo.

However, Ved was unhappy with that photo and requested a committee member to take another photograph. Guruji was having dinner, so Ved patiently waited for Guruji. After dinner, a meeting had been scheduled, so Guruji could not come. Ved kept waiting until 11:30 PM then after, he went home. His home was 40 km away from the temple, so he got home late. His photo was to be retaken the following day, so Ved got up at 4:30 AM. He bathed and did his puja and reached the temple at 5:30 AM. He again requested a committee member to take a picture of him with Guruji since he had to reach school at 7:00 AM. Guruji performed Shangar Aarti and went to give divine labh in a discourse. Ved was determined to have his photo taken, so during sabha, he went near Guruji and said, "I am going to school now, will return after school for Your darshan." Guruji became very pleased by his innocence.

Upon exiting the hall, Ved's mother asked Ved about the photo. She asked Ved to go to sabha and have his picture taken.

Guruji was busy in the discourse, so Ved pleadingly requested P.Sants to fulfill his wish. Guruji noticed that Ved was crying, so He asked P.sants about it. The P. Sant replied, "Ved wishes to have a photo clicked with You right now since he has to go to school afterwards."

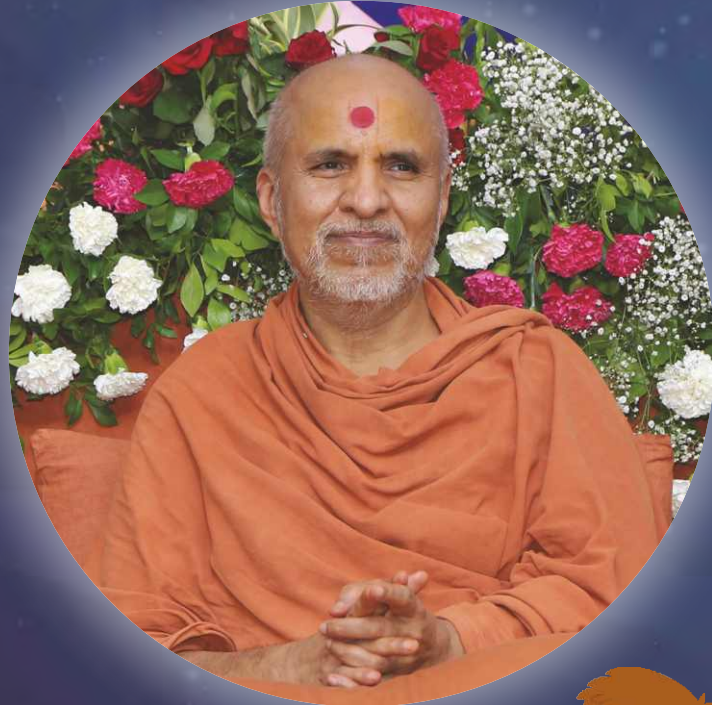
Guruji told Ved, "Ved Maharaj, don't cry. Why didn't you tell Me this personally? Come here beside Me." Guruji lovingly placed His hands on Ved's head and wiped off his tears with His own gatadiya (saffron cloth). Guruji fulfilled his wish and made him happy by taking a picture with him.

Divyam said," Really, our Guruji is a true personification of kindness. He cannot see even a little child unhappy: so, He fulfills everyone's wishes to make them happy.'

: Moral :

Always remember the love and favours that Guruji has showered upon us.





Today, Divyam was having a bad day. He had been very sad since the morning. His mother told his father about this, so Divyam's father called him near and lovingly asked, "What happened? Why are you so quiet since the morning?"

Divyam kept quiet. His father said, "Since you love to hear Guruji's divine incidents so much, come, I will tell you one more." Upon hearing this, Divyam smiled for the first time since morning.

His father said, "In December 2022, Guruji resided in Swaminarayan Dham, Gandhinagar. As per His daily routine, Guruji was doing the niyam cheshta in the Sant Aashram. In the evening, many children and devotees came for His darshan. Guruji was doing cheshta while walking when he noticed Devam Maharaj from the third grade. With a hand gesture, Guruji told Devam to sit near Maharaj during the cheshta so that a bond with Maharaj can be developed from his young age. However, Devam Maharaj did not like to perform cheshta while sitting, so he went outside. After some time, Guruji noticed that Devam Maharaj was not in the hall.

Guruji thought, "Maybe because I asked Devam to sit near Maharaj for cheshta, he did not like that and got hurt." So, Guruji sent a few P.sants to find Devam in the campus. Devam was playing outside.

The P. Sant told Devam that Guruji wants to meet him, so Devam hurried to the Sant Aashram with P. Sants.

Guruji asked the P. Sants, "Santo, do we have any food in the kitchen? I want to feed Devam Maharaj. P. Sant went to the kitchen but found only popcorn. Guruji requested them to bring some popcorn and laddoos, and Guruji Himself served it to Devam and made him happy."

"Sorry, papa, now I will not do any mischief and will not hurt anyone. You explained this to me so calmly. Thank you! Now I will live a life that would please my Guruji. You shall not have any complains about me from now onwards."



Moral:

Our behaviour shall never be troublesome or hurtful to anyone at home or school.



Satsang Activities for Children

Childhood signifies an innocent stage which is like a tender plant. A tender plant blossoms in whichever direction it is folded. Similarly, ones' childhood can evolve into a prosperous adulthood under apt guidance. This requires a steady and constant guiding hand at every milestone of life. All this depends on the company, environment and behavior that children get exposed to from childhood.

Stealing, lying, addiction, disrespecting parents, transgressing limits, going astray – children should be protected from all such vices from infancy. Hence, with the divine inspiration of Guruvarya HDH Swamishri, SMVS organization has initiated spiritual activities for children since 1987, under the Swaminarayan Digvijay Mandal. These activities ensure all-rounded development of various spiritual and social values. Flourishment of different skills and educational quality is also given high priority.

There are more than 625 children mandals for children from 7 to 14 years of age, which are currently operational in India and abroad under the guidance of the Satsang Pravrutti Karyalaya. More than 15,000 boys and girls participate in these mandals weekly.

Ideologies of Karan Satsang

- My name is Anadimukta.
- My father is Lord Swaminarayan.
- My mother is HDH Bajji and HDH Swamishri.
- All P. Saints and devotees are my relatives.
- I reside in the Murti of Lord Swaminarayan.
- My Lord Swaminarayan is the supreme lord.
- Bapashri is my life.
- HDH Bajji and HDH Swamishri are my guru.
- My SMVS organization is the greatest.

Our fundamental principle (Siddhant Sutra) is:

“Karan Satsang means to consolidate the supremacy of Lord Swaminarayan and to attain the status of an Anadimukta”



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