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EDITORIAL

श्रीश्रीश्री

On the pious day of *Fagan Sud-3 Vikram Samvat 2067* -the day of *Patotsav* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev - H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj offered Shree Swaminarayan Museum for divine *Darshan* of the whole *Satsang Samaj* of the world. The noble aim of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has been fulfilled and we all relished and enjoyed Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration *Mahotsav*. Everyday thousands of devotees and *Haribhaktas* visit this divine Museum for *Darshan*. The time of about three hours spent in the Museum does not give satisfaction to the devotees as they feel to see it again and again. So wonderful and divine is our Shree Swaminarayan Museum! If we perform *Darshan* of each and every Thing of *Prasadi* placed in the Museum we will feel divinity and serenity.

This is an auspicious year for our country India. In the year 1983, for the first time we won the World Cup in the game of cricket and after a long time of 28 years we achieved it again and it is a matter of great pride for we all the Indians. Everyone felt and witnessed the patriotic feelings everywhere in the country.

With the blessings of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and under the guidance of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, we all have rendered our services of mind, body and money during the celebrations of Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration *Mahotsav*. We express our sincere gratitude towards all those devotees and *Haribhaktas* who have rendered their beautiful services and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj are very much pleased with them and all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* are blessed.

Editor
Mahant Swami
Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas

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

(MARCH - 2011)

- 5 to 9. Celebrated Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration *Mahotsav*, *Patotsav* of Shree Narnarayandev etc.
10. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kankaria (Rambaug), on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
11. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Sapawada, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
12. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Approach-Bapunagar on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
13. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Deusana, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
15. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Ghatlodia, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
19. Celebrated Shree Narnarayandev *Phul-Dolotsav* in the pious company of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj.
25. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kherol, on the occasion of *Parayan* and *Mahapooja*.
26. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Jetalpur, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
27. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kasindra, on the occasion of *Patotsav* and *Katha*. Graced *Satsang Sabha*, new Ranip.
30. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadnagar, and procession on the occasion of *Suvarna Jayanti Patotsav*.
31. Celebrated *Suvarna Jayanti Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadnagar.



(APRIL - 2011)

1. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kothamba, on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
2. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Laloda, on the occasion of *Katha*.
3. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khan, in the evening.
4. Celebrated *Rajat Jayanti Patotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan temple, Khan.
- 5 to 18 Pilgrimage to Australia.
19. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mandvi (Kachchh), on the occasion of *Patotsav*.
20. Celebrated 67th *Prakatyotsav* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.
21. Graced Siddhpur.
22. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Gandhinagar, Sector-23, on the occasion of *Satsang Sabha*.
- 23-24 Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Bhuj (Kachchh), on the occasion of *Patosav-Shobhayatra* of Shri Radhakrishnadev.
25. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Vadu, on the occasion of *Katha*.
26. Graced Shree Swaminarayan temple, Mansa, on the occasion of *Katha*.
27. Graced the house of the devotee Shri Bholabhai Joitaram Patel (Itdrawala), Naranpura, on the occasion of *Mahapooja*.
29. Graced village Pilvai Veda.
30. Graced village Jiragadh on the occasion of *Patotsav* of Shri Rokadiya Hanumanji Dada.

Shikshapatri

The Epistle of Precepts

(based on Shatanand's Shikshapatri
Arthadipika)

By Pravin S. Varsani

Text 47

No distinction shall be made between
narayan and Shiva, as they are both
proclaimed as Brahmanwarupa by the
Vedas.

*Ekatmyameva Vigneyam
Narayanamaheshyoha |
Ubhyorbrahmanrupera Vedeshu
Pratipadanat ||47||*

Those who think of God differently to
this, where Narayan or Shiva are defamed
in some way are insulting God. Shatanand
says that such people should have their
eyes removed. Such a person is blind to the
truth and can never be enlightened to that
truth.

Many Shastras speak of the oneness
of Narayan and Shiva. One ancient
Shastras in some instances speak of
Narayan as supreme and in other
instances speak of Shiva as supreme. Both
views should be accepted as correct,
hence they should be accepted as the one
and the same. The following Veda
scriptures are Shaiva in context as they
speak of Shiva as Brahman:
*Atharvashikha, Atarvashisha,
Shetasvataria, Mantropanishad,
Kaivalyopanishad.* The following speak of
Vishnu as the supreme Brahmin:
*Mahānārāyaṇopaniṣad,
Nārāyaṇopaniṣad, Mahāopaniṣad,
Shubhalopaniṣad.* Thus the four Vedas
sing only the oneness of Shiva and
Narayan.

Shrimad Bhagwat's Fourth Chapter
explains, 'Those who find indifference in
Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva and recognize
the oneness in them obtain eternal peace'.
The Eighth Chapter adds, 'Shiva Brahma
and Vishnu are thy manifested forms,
which create, maintain and destroy the
universe at thy will. Thou is Ishwara who
delivers Moksha (Salvation). Thou is
Parabrahman (the Supreme Lord).'

Narad Pancharatra succinctly states:

*Shivo Harirhariha Shakshatchiva Eva
Nirupitaha |
Shivadveshi Haridrohi Vishnum
Nityam Bhajanapi ||*

'Shiva is Hari and Hari is none other
than Shiva. An enemy of Shiva is an enemy
of Hari, even though he may daily worship
Vishnu.'

Bhattacharya has said, 'I have looked
in the Puranas, Upapuranas, Vedas,
Smrutis and all other such Shastras, but
have not come across anything to suggest
a difference in Shiva and Vishnu.' **God**
himself has said, 'Those who find
difference in the two of us fall to the Hells.'
Shree Dhar Swami prays, 'I humbly bow
before Vishnu and Shankar who are done,
who revere one another and who provide
for all.' **Vallabhacharya**, a famed
Vaishnava, in similar fashion says, 'Glory
to thee, who is honoured as Brahman in
the Vedanta- Lord of the three worlds –
Mahadev.'

Lord Swaminarayan has gone out of
his way to glorify both Vaishnav and Shaiva
Sampradais in order to get back to the true
Vedic teachings. We must conform to this
dream of Lord Swaminarayan's by never
uttering a word contrary to the Lord's
standpoint. We must always, with love,
observe the Vratas of Lord Shiva and bow
respectfully to the icons of Shiva. It does

(Con. from page 26)

Our Great Museum of the world

- Shastri Swami Harikrishnadas (Mahant Swami Ahmedabad)

In the past many kings and emperors have got developed Museums preserving their life style, impact and the activities during their regime and notable incident occurred during their life-time. All these things appear very interesting in the Modern world from the historical point of view. But it has got meaning for the people engrossed in worldly affairs. If we look at the religious and spiritual points of view, we find that Lord Shree Rama and the Lord Shree Krishna incarnated on this earth and performed *Leela* on the pious land of India. Today there are thousands and lacs of devotees of Lord Shree Rama and Lord Shree Krishna all over the world. But unfortunately not a single thing appears to have been preserved with any of the devotees of the Lord Shree Rama or the Lord Shree Krishna. However, their birthplace is still there and it is a matter of joy for all. But if even a small thing of Lord Shree Rama or Lord Shree Krishna could have been preserved then its value and importance would have been beyond any calculation and the people would have an opportunity to get an idea about their life-



style. It is learn that one hair of Mohammed Paigambar Sahib of the Muslim religion has been preserved in Kashmir and crores of Muslims are proud of it.

We are very lucky and there are blessings of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan on all of us. Shree Hari stayed for 49 years on this earth and out of these 49 years 32 years were passed in constant *Vicharan* in Gujarat and Saurashtra regions. During this *Vicharan* Shree Hari used to grace the residence and houses of the devotees and *Haribhaktas* and used to offer various Things of *Prasadi* and also used to offer *Charanarvind*. The grain preserving utensil called '*Kothi*' through which Shree Hari helped the draught affected people to pass the critical time safely, is still preserved. The clothes, blankets, utensils, flute, the only original letter with signature of Shree Hari, teeth, jaws, nail, hair and such other thousands of Things of *Prasadi* which were received by the saints, devotee and *Haribhaktas* from their Guru or ancestors were being collected for the last eight years. Everyone involved in this noble task was eager to know when Museum would

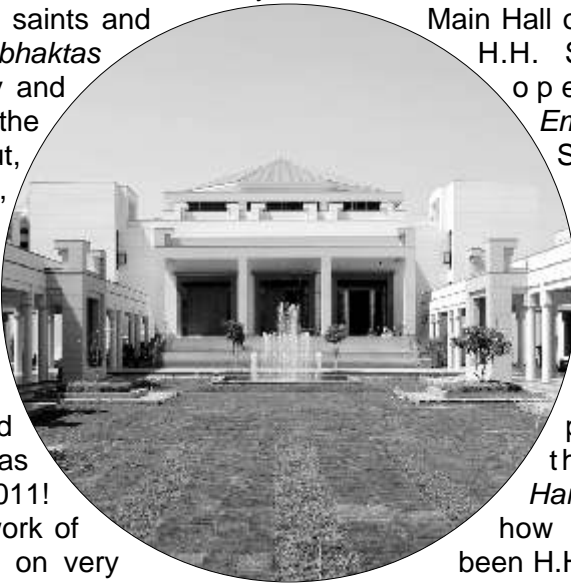


be ready and when they would be able to perform divine *Darshan* of these divine Things of *Prasadi*. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj used to perform *Vicharan* in *Desh* as well as in various countries all over the world such as America, England, Africa with this noble task of Shree Swaminarayan Museum only. *Haribhaktas* residing in abroad were eager to know and learn about the work of Museum when they used to visit India. They had so ardent faith and trust in this noble task of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj that the work of Museum would be perfect in all respect. And it was very crucial period for all saints and devotees and *Haribhaktas* who were physically and directly involved in the work of Museum. But, everyone felt that, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan was doing supervision of the whole work in the form of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj!

The time passed very rapidly and it was the day of 5th March 2011! On the one hand, work of Museum was going on very fast-day and night and on the other hand all the preparation were to be made at the place where Shree Swaminarayan Museum inauguration *Mahotsav* was to be celebrated. At this site, all the basic amenities such as *Sabha Mandap*, Stage, Main Kitchen, VIP Kitchen, *Yagna Mandap*, *Dhoon Mandap*, residence for the outside visitors and the work of temple – thus so many works were required to be done that, one would doubt whether

everything would be possible in time! But as we know, miracles do happen on such occasions and in case of Shree Swaminarayan Museum Shreeji Maharaj has performed many miracles and all the works were completed in time. Here our saints and *Haribhaktas* rendered their services day and night. On the pious day of *Patotsav* of Shree Narnarayandev on *Fagan Sud-3 Samvat 2067* is the day of inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum!

In the evening when all the Three Other Forms of Shree Hari graced the Main Hall of Museum and when H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj opened '*Gate of Emancipation*' of Shree Swaminarayan Museum for divine *Darshan*, there were tears of happiness and joy in the eyes of lacs of saints and *Haribhaktas* who were present on this pious occasion. Only these saints and *Haribhaktas* can know how happy would have been H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. So dear devotees and *Haribhaktas*, please perform divine *Darshan* of this Shree Swaminarayan Museum not only once but again and again so that when human soul gets reminded of any of these Things of *Prasadi* of Museum then the soul would emancipation and place in *Akshardham*!!!



Supreme Pride

- Shastri Harikeshavdas (Gandhinagar)

Gopalanand Swami has written in Chapter-1 Story No.50, "When *Aksharadhipati* Purushottam Narayan incarnates on this earth, *Muktas* also remain present in various forms in service of the Lord. These *Muktas* are present in any form such as pillow, bed, utensils, trees, hand-fain and they render their beautiful services to Maharaj. *Haribhaktas*, the point is that, though all *Muktas* have disappeared, now they have taken forms and shapes which are granting us divine *Darshan* in Shree Swaminarayan Museum. This Museum is really divine place of Pilgrimage. One earns more result by performing *Darshan* of this Museum and without performing *Darshan* of Museum, pilgrimage of any *Haribhakta* or devotee is incomplete.

While narrating the importance of these Things of *Prasadi*, Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami has said, "In the whole Universe, wherever the rising and the setting sun reaches, we will not be able to find such Things of *Prasadi*. Only those devotees can have *Darshan*, who are ardent devotees of Shree Hari." So devotees, importance of these divine Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj is beyond any description- verbal or written. There is reference in the scriptures of our *Sampradaya* that, Swarupanand Swami got himself cured of his illness by remembering the roves of the house of the devotee Dada Khachar.

Therefore, these Things of *Prasadi* are really divine in nature and they are capable of granting emancipation to all *Haribhaktas* and devotees. it is really unique and wonderful achievement for all of us that, we have got the treasure-house of these divine Things of *Prasadi* in the form of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. It is a wonderful gift of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj to the whole *Sampradaya*. It is stated that, the goals and aims of the great people get materialized. Those of common men are not materialized.

There are references of such instances in the scriptures of our *Sampradaya*: divine aim of Sachitanand Swami was realized and after two hundred years, divine *Sankalp* (aim) of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj is also realized which grants us divine *Darshan* in the form of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

There is a *Katha* in the great epic *The Ramayan*' Bhagwan Shree Rama built *Setu* (bridge) to cross the ocean. Here H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj built Museum- a divine *Setu*- which helps all devotees and *Haribhaktas* to cross the *Ocean of this World*.

While offering *Shangaar* to the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, first of all *Poojari* offers *Pitambar*, *Vagha*, other clothes, ornaments and at last crown is offered. Then we can have complete *Darshan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Thus, *Darshan* of Crown of the Lord is complete *Darshan* and therefore only, we come on every pious day of *Poonam* to perform *Darshan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Dear devotees, by getting constructed Shree Swaminarayan Museum, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has offered **Crown** to our *Sampradaya*. *Haribhaktas*, great people never praise themselves, they are always praised by others. For examples, flowers never speak, it is their fragrance which speak. The trees never speak, it is their fruits which speak. The rivers never speak, it is their flow which speak. The Spring Season never speaks, it is the bird cuckoo which speaks. Similarly, the great people never speak, it is their action and their work which speak. When a man speaks, it is audible in a limited area, but action of man is speaking all over the world.

Dear devotees, if we want to summarize our expression about Museum in one line then we can say that, "*This Museum is Supreme Pride of our Sampradaya*"!!!



Pride of Sampradaya- Inauguration of First Ever Shree Swaminarayan Museum



- Sadhu Purushottamprakashdas (Jetalpurdham)

H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj nourished Sampradaya as Acharya of Shri Narnarayandev Diocese for 36 (thirty six) years and thereafter handed over the reins of *Sampradaya* to his son H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj. However, the subsequent period was not the period of retirement for him. Without a rest even for a minute, he cherished a noble concept of having the first ever Museum of Shree Swaminarayan Museum with a view to preserve all Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj in such a way that all *Haribhaktas*, devotees and saints can have divine *Darshan* of these Things of *Prasadi*. It was the divine aim to have the world class Museum. Accordingly, on the pious day of *Patotsav* of Shree Narnarayandev in the year 2005, *Shilanyas* ritual of Shree Swaminarayan

Museum was performed on piece of land admeasuring 4 acre and situated in the prime location of Naranpura area of the Western part of Ahmedabad city.

With a view to inculcate noble and divine feelings in the hears of the devotees and *Haribhaktas*, divine *Vicharan* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj was started in each and every village of our Narnarayandev Desh as also in abroad. Whatever may be the occasion, *Samiayo*, *Satsang Sabha* or *Patotsav*, it was the explicit and clear expression of divine visit on that occasion for Shree Swaminarayan Museum only. And gradually all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* were coloured with the colors of Museum.

It was incessant *Vicharan* of five years even in various countries all over the world and all saints and *Haribhaktas* rendered their services for this one unanimous goal





of having Shree Swaminarayan Museum and that was made possible with strenuous efforts of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj.

Action is the best way of preaching. And accordingly all doubts were dispelled with action, all questions were answered with action. It was decided to have grand and historic Museum with ultra-modern facilities on land admeasuring 4 acres. Total construction of Museum is admeasuring 1 lac 40 thousand square feet consisting of 11 huge and spacious centrally A.C. Halls and in the Centre is the Main Hall admeasure 150 x 150, which is known as *Maun Mandir* (Temple of Silence). In this Hall there is idol image of Shree Narnarayandev (made of movable black stone) offered by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. To the right side of this idol image is placed the only letter of Power of Attorney with Court Stamp and having signature of Bhagwan Shree

Swaminarayan. Adjoining this letter is placed the jaw of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. To the left side of the idol image are placed divine *Asthi Phul*, Nail, Hair. By performing divine *Darshan* of these five divine Things of *Prasadi* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, one get absolved off all his sins. In all other eleven Halls are placed gold and silver ornaments, utensils, clothes, books, *Chakhdj* used by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and Charanarvind, idol images, Manki horse and other thins of *Prasadi* kept by Parshads. In all about 1245 Things of *Prasadi*, which were used on different occasion have been placed alongwith pictures of these occasions.

Whenever questions and difficulties came during this mammoth task of construction work of Museum, the only answers which came from H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj were, "**Shree Narnarayandev Himself is**



doing our this work and therefore there would not be any deficiency in this divine work of the Lord Himself.” These words encouraged, strengthened and boosted the morale of all the saints and *Haribhaktas*.

Inauguration of Shree Swaminaryan Museum was scheduled to be performed on the pious day of *Fagan Sud-3 Samvat 2067* on 08/03/2011 and thousands of saints devotees from various countries all over the world had arrived to participate in this *Mahotsav*.

On 07/03/2011, Vastu ritual of Museum was kept. H.H. 108 Shri Lalji Maharaj Shri Vrajendrprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Raja performed *Ghat-Sthapan* of Vastu ritual. The Vastu ritual and Homatmak Mahapooja were performed in *Vedic, Puranic* manner in the pious presence of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, and also in the presence of the saints and the devotees who rendered their beautiful services for this Museum.

On 08/03/2011, the golden rays of the Sun-god were spreading all over, the day which was awaited eagerly by lacs of devotees and *Haribhaktas*. The divine day of *Fagan Sud-3* became the historic day of inauguration of the first ever Shree Swaminarayan Museum as if all historic events of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya were destined to be associated with this pious day of *Fagan Sud-3*. Now nobody could prevent ardent eagerness of *Haribhaktas* of divine *Darshan* of inauguration which was scheduled in the evening from 7.00 to 8.30 hours. *Patotsav Mahabhishek* of Shree Narnarayandev was performed early in the morning and it was inauguration.

In the evening at 6.30 hours, when H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the place of Museum carrying the keys of the Museum from Swaminaryan Baug, Memnagar, all saints and *Haribhaktas* performed grand *Samaiyu* of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj. The Stage Show of the famous Gujarati artist Devang Patel organized as part of Inauguration of Museum was so grand and unique, a rare blending of tradition and modernity supported by ultra-modern musical instruments and background music and light-effects, that neither the devotees nor their minds could move away from the place of inauguration even for a moment.

At 8.15 hours, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendrprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendrprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendrprasadji Maharaj accompanied by the saints and the host devotees, laid open the first ever Shree Swaminarayan Museum for divine *Darshan* for lacs of devotees. Only those devotees can know and experience this, who have performed divine *Darshan* of this Museum. The astrologers have already forecast that, the life of this Museum goes with the life of this *Brahmand* (Universe).

This Museum is located opposite our famous educational institute TERF in Naranpura area of Ahmedabad city. It is a grand building with the parking facility of 200 cars. It takes the time of two to three hours for divine *Darshan* of the whole Museum. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has directed all the saints and devotees to perform divine *Darshan* of Museum time and again, as many devotees feel to perform divine *Darshan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev again and again!!!



Home of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan

- Shastri Swami Nirgundasji (Ahmedabad)

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj offered to whole *Satsang Samaj* Shree Swaminarayan Museum which contains all Things of *Prasadi* which have been used by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. It appears that, this Museum is like Home of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. There are things such as teeth, jaws, nails, hair, *Asthi* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and such things are found only in home.

We maintain our social relations and visit the houses and residence of our relatives frequently. Similarly we should visit our Shree Swaminarayan Museum and perform divine *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* of Bhagwan Shree



Swaminarayan; this is the evidence to show that our inclination is more towards Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan.

It is also a very strong reason to get emancipation from life. In real this sense this Museum is Home of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. Here we also get divine

Darshan of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj- Other Form of Shree Hari.

Nobody can describe this divine place. But those who perform divine *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* and if any of these things remain permanent in the heart and memory of any devotee or *Haribhakta* then he is sure to get place in *Akshardham*.



Lively Form of Prasadi

- Sadhu Ghanshyamprakasdas, Jamiyatpura (Mahant Swami, Mansa)

"çkÄ rfÄk çkeò çkkyk hu ðnïke feÄe yùkhðkx ÄkV»kkÄkç «ðkxe hu....." When Purna Purushottam Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan incarnated on this earth, then He did not discriminate between anybody. Even the inanimate things were also like living things for Him. And therefore, whosoever came in His contact, obtained divinity and importance place of pilgrimage from Him. Be it Darbar of Dada Khachar, Khijda tree of Laxmivadi, Gangajaliya Well or Radhavav; Dev Sarovar of Jetalpur, Vav of Adalaj or Mangrol, Gyanbaug of Vadatal, Rang Mahol of Ahmedabad, Laxmivadi of Gadhdha; all of them became more spiritual than even Vrindavan. Even the clothes which Shree Hari used to wear became divine Things of Prasadi and their descriptions are still sung. Our temples are adorned with Turbans, Chakhdis which were used by Shree Hari.

Once while walking Shreeji Maharaj broke Malokhu of Lerakhda Rada. Then Muktanand Swami asked Maharaj the reason of so simple action as he firmly believed that, every action of Shreeji Maharaj is with some purpose. Similarly while walking on the grass, Shreeji Maharaj broke one straw of grass. Sadguru Muktanand Swami again asked Maharaj, "Now what will happen to this straw of grass, which is uprooted from the soil?" Shreeji Maharaj did not reply immediately. But after some years Maharaj answered Swamiji's question thus, "Look, now the straw of grass is re-born in the form of Vira Bhagat, my ardent devotee, who is rendering his services."

So, everything little thing- animate or inanimate- which got the divine touch of

(Con. from page 34)



Unselfish *Daan* is the best

- Sadhu Narayanmunidass Guru Mahant Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji (Ahmedabad)



The deities of the heaven asked Almighty Lord which thing is stronger than the mountains? It is iron said Almighty Lord because it can cut the stones into pieces. The deities asked what is stronger than iron? It is fire said Almighty Lord because it can melt the iron. The deities again asked what is stronger than the fire? It is water said Almighty Lord because it can extinguish the fire. The curious deities again asked what is stronger than the water? It is wind said Almighty Lord because it can generate ripples in the water and waves in the ocean and it can also change the direction of the clouds which are full of water. The excited deities asked what is stronger than the wind? Bhagwan

answered that it is *Daan* which is offered without any selfish motive. Nothing is stronger than such selfless offering *Daan* because it is offered so secretly that when it is offered with the right hand, even the left hand does not know about it. It is the strongest and the best in this world and it is capable of granting serenity and genuine happiness to both the recipient as well as the person offering *Daan*.

During our Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration *Mahotsav*, many devotees rendered their services with their body, mind and money without any expectation. Each and every devotee of our *Sampradaya* has rendered the services during this Museum inauguration *Mahotsav* with the devout feelings to contribute in fulfilling the noble aim of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

Many little children have also rendered their services from the money which was given to them by their parents to purchase biscuits, chocolates etc. Our H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj have also offered Things of *Prasadi* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan which they inherited from *Dharmkul*. Now these divine Things of *Prasadi* are placed in the Museum so that all *Haribhaktas* and devotees can perform divine *Darshan*. Thus, all the saints, *Haribhaktas* and even *Dharmkul* have rendered beautiful services for our Shree Swaminarayan Museum.





Unique and Supreme Place of Pilgrimage of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya Shree Swaminarayan Museum



- Dr. Harshadbhai Kasturchand Zinzuwadia (Ahmedabad)

Dear *Satsangi Haribhaktas*,

We have not identified our great luck and therefore sometimes we cannot enjoy and relish the divine happiness and real happiness of whatever we have achieved. It is like *Kasturi-Mrig*, which keeps on running here and there smelling the beautiful fragrance which is coming out of its own body. Our situation is also very similar. In fact, there is no limit to our achievement and luck which is bestowed upon all of us.

From the creation of this Universe, the Earth, the human souls and other living beings could not get emancipation in their life until *Pradurbhav* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan on this earth. And this is supported by one of the six purposes behind *Pradurbhav* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan wherein it is clearly stated by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, 'I want to grant emancipation to all *Haribhaktas*, *Muktas*, Saints and all those people who seek their shelter under our *Sampradaya*.' And this fact is unintelligible without becoming ardent devotee of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. People may not believe it, they may not agree with it but we are not concerned with it. What is important for us is to know and understand only this much that we are very lucky that we have become devotees of this best *Sampradaya* and our achievement is really unique and divine.

The noble aim of our H.H. Shri Mota

Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj is Shree Swaminarayan Museum. Recently Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration Mahotsav was celebrated in Ahmedabad from 5th March 2011 to 9th March 2011. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj of both *Gadi* established by Shree Hari, learned saints, *Haribhaktas* residing in *Desh* and *Videsh* who rendered their beautiful services of body, mind and money as also dignitaries and leading personalities of all walks of life as also Honourable the Chief Minister of the Gujarat State Shri Narendrabhai Modi and all other people participated, enjoyed and relished this *Mahamahotav* from the bottom of their heart.

During this grand celebration there was *Satsangijivan Katha Parayan* of five days, *Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra Dhoon* of five days, *Hari Yaag* of three days, *Group Mahapooja*, *Abhishek Darshan* of Rangmahol. Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj, *Shodasopchar Poojan*, *Archan*, *Abhishek* and *Annakat Darshan* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, *Chhapan Bhog Annakat Darshan* etc. whose benefit was availed by all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

With the blessings of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan, I availed the benefit of divine *Darshan* of each day as also *Shravan*, *poojan* and *Bhakti* during five days' *Mahotsav*. On the basis of the noble qualities and *Samskaras* of *Sampradaya*





'Vachanamrit':

'Those *Haribhaktas*, who have divine realization of God and can see the idol image of the deities in his inner self, they should remember and cherish *Leela* of the Lord and should also cherish ardent and devout feelings with *Brahmchari*, *Sadhu* and *Satsangis*. And therefore we perform *Vishnu Yaag* and celebrate *Utsav* on the pious days like *Janmastmi*, *Ekadashi* etc. where all *Brahmchari*, *Sadhu* and *Satsangis* get together and even the sinners get emancipation by performing divine *Darshan* during such *Utsav*.'

One of the six purposes behind *Pradurbhav* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan on this earth is to make the human souls happy and prosperous in this world and life. To grant emancipation to all the devotees and to release them permanently from the cycle of birth-death and re-birth. Accordingly, number of small and big festivals, *Utsav* and *Mahotsav* are being organized by the saints and devotees all over the world throughout the year under the auspices of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj of Shree Narnarayandev Diocese.

Moreover, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has also blessed all the devotees and *Haribhaktas* that whosoever will perform divine *Darshan* of the Things of *Prasadi* of Shree Hari, they will certainly get emancipation in this life. And these words of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan are beautifully narrated by Sadguru Shree Nishkulanand Swami in his '*Purushottam Prakash*':

ઠએ યૅકીક યૅકીક યૅકીક હુ ઇક્રવ મીકીકૃ- મીકીક મીકીક હુ
 યીન «મીકીકૃ સી ઈક હુ {સુ યસુ મીકીક મીકીક હુ
 યીન ઠ† યીકીક {યીકીક હુ ઉકીક ઈકીકીક ઈકીક {«કીકીક હુ
 યીકીક {નકીક {પ યીકીકીકીક હુ ફીનુઠપીકીક {સુ યીન {પ હુ

granted to me and my family by *Akshar Nivasi* devotee Shir Manilal Laxmidas Bhalja (Shri Motabhai- Ahmedabad), I take this opportunity to narrate my experience and thoughts about Shree Swaminarayan Museum through this '*Shree Swaminarayan*' magazine.

Various types of festival are celebrated in each and every *Sampradaya* all over the world. There are many *Sampradayas* in Hindu religion and among these *Sampradaya*, *Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya* is very popular for celebrating festivals. As regards purpose behind celebration of so many festivals in *Sampradaya*, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan states in 3rd *Vachanamrit* of *Gadhda* First Chapter of the scripture



susuy {khh MktkAeLke ðMikwhu Lk {suokkikikt OEulku yMik hu syMk y {MktkAeLke susuhu Au yufÖpkýfthe {kLke =esu hu íku íku hk¼e Au y {u yÁkhh hu Mkrw sLk yHúku yk Ökh hu Lk¼arp¼ak =oke rLkhÁkh hu hk¼e MÅkhp e ðMikw fhe Ápkh hu MÅkhp e [es su çkrw Ákh fkh hu yze nk¼p su ybku y {khu hu íku íku Mkdü Au fÖpkýfthe hu {kxu hk¼e Au y {u rð [khe hu y {yLkf «fkh yks hu çkrw SÖLkt fhök Au fks hu ykÖPk Aeyu y {u y {u Ákhe hu Mkdü SÖLku =ðk WæÁkhe hu y {fíkhu ykÁku yrÖLkkpu hu íku íku Mktk¼eÞw Mkrw ÉkMku hu Mkye Mkrw Úkpk ÁkhMkLk hu frw Møk¼e ©eS ÁLP ÁLP hu

This clearly explains the importance of Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj as narrated in the scripture '*Purushottam Prakash*'. It is with reference to such an importance that, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj expressed his noble aim of developing Shree Swaminarayan Museum and as a result thereof Shree Swaminarayan Museum *Maha-Mahotsav* was organized for five days with a noble aim of granting emancipation to all devotees and *Haribhaktas* by performing divine *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj.

In this *Maha-Mahotsav* of five days, about more than five lacs *Satsangi Haribhaktas* and devotees participated in various programmes such as Shree Swaminarayan Mahamantra *Akhand Dhoon*, Three Days' Shree Hari Yaag, divine *Mahapooja* of Shree Hari with *Shodasopchar* ritual, 189th Patotsav of Shree Narnarayandev, *Chhapanbhog Annakut Mahotsav*, *Grand Udghatan* (inauguration) *Mahotsav* of Shree Swaminarayan Museum, listening of divine *Satsangijivan Katha Parayan*, divine *Darshan* of 6th, 7th and 8th descendants of *Dharmkul* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and listening of their divine blessings, divine *Darshan of Group Aarti*, *divine Darshan* of all Things of *Prasadi* in Shree Swaminarayan Museum, divine

Mahaprashad etc. whose benefit was availed by all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*. Even any of these divine occasions, *Utsav* or *Darshan* is reminded of during the last time of any *Haribhaktas*, he will get emancipation, as ensured in the scriptures of the *Sampradaya*. Some of these divine occasions, as I recollect out of my understanding and experience are as under :

(1) Divine *Darshan* of all Three Acharya during Shree Swaminarayan Museum Mahotsav:

Divine *Darshan* of 6th descendant of Bhgwan Shree Swaminarayan, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shree Tejendraprasadji Maharaj), 7th descendant H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and 8th descendant H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj (future Acharya) on the Grand Stage of *Sabha-Mandap* prepared on Shree Swaminarayan Museum *Mahotsav*.

(2) Blessings of H.H. Shri Laji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj :

Divine blessings of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj (future Acharya) about tides and waves which one comes across in his spiritual journey. This was explained very beautifully with simple mathematical equations of addition, Multiplication, Division and Deduction. This was the best blessings of H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. Those devotees and *Haribhaktas*, who would have understood and digested the message conveyed through these blessings, they must have been very much happy. They would have also realized the certainty of progress of his spiritual life and



development of *Satsang, Niyam, Faith* in our *Sampradaya*. The devotees and *Haribhaktas* who availed the benefit of these blessings while remaining present, they are very lucky.

(3) Preservation Plus : Protection of Environment :

H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri



Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj during His blessings to *Haribhaktas*, furnished information about the arrangements made for preservation of environment in the campus of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. Banners of Preservation Plus were kept on the stage of *Sabha Mandap*. It was stated that if five elements (i) *Pruthvi (Earth)* (ii) *Vayu (Air)* (iii) *Jal (Water)* (iv) *Tej (Light)* and (v) *Aakash (Space)* are preserved properly then environment would be preserved automatically. The flower with five petals, shown on the stage, represented these five elements symbolically. Furthermore, Air Conditioned Atmosphere in the Museum is prepared with the help of Wind Mill and Solar Plant so that protection of environment is ensured and maintenance cost of Museum is minimized.

(4) Shree Swaminarayan

Museum – Divine Sankalp of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj :

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj granted divine *Darshan* to all *Haribhaktas* twice in a day during *Mahotsav* along with H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj. While blessing all devotees and *Haribhaktas* on the occasion of inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj said,

‘Our noble aim was divine Sankalp of Shreeji Maharaj and now it is realized. When I was Lalji Maharaj, then I had expressed my desire of granting divine Darshan of Things of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj to the whole Satsang Samaj, to our father Akshar Nivasi H.H. Shri Acharya Shree Devendraprasadji Maharaj. With the blessings of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, our great grandfather Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan has fulfilled our this noble aim and I am very much happy and satisfied. Now there is no any other Sankalp to be fulfilled and no any other Sankalp to be taken.’ All *Satsanigs* and devotees were very much happy to avail the benefit of divine blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj during inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. It was an unforgettable moment for all devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

(5) Honour of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj :

All *Haribhaktas* and devotees who rendered their beautiful services with their body, mind and money for fulfilment of this divine *Sankalp* of Shree Swaminarayan Museum of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, they all were honoured with the scripture of *Sampradaya* published on this occasion,



idol image of Shreeji Maharaj, MP-3 Cassettes and shawl with the emblem of *Mahotsav*. Thereafter, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj said in very light mood, 'We have also offered invaluable Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj in this Museum. Now what will you give us in our honour?' then immediately H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj said, 'Till date all of you have rendered your great services with body, mind and money and you have also offered Things of *Prasadi* in Museum and the love and affection and ardent *Bhakti* which you have offered, this is the real honour for me.' While listening to these blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, the whole *Satsang Samaj* was in tears of happiness. Then leading saints of *Mahotsav Samiti*, trustees of temple etc. were to honour H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj by offering the garlands. First of all H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj put off Red Turban and offered it at the lotus like feet of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and obtained the blessings, H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj 108 Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj also followed his father and obtained the blessings. The whole *Satsang Samaj* performed *Darshan* of this divine occasion and it became a memorable moment of their life. There was atmosphere of joy and celebration everywhere on this occasion.

(6) Shree Swaminarayan Museum Udghatan Samarambh :

All and beautiful arrangements were made for inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum in Naranpura area situated in front of TERF School run by Shree Swaminarayan temple, Kalupur, Ahmedabad. There was beautiful Laser

Show, Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj *Pradurbhai Mahotsav*, *Shree Panchala Raas*, divine *Darshan* of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj (the artist Shri Vishal Pandeji who performed the role of Shree Ghanshyam Maharaj in '*Shree Swaminarayan*' serial) riding *Manki* horse along with saints and *Haribhaktas*, Group *Aarti* of Shree Swaminarayan Museum by all *Haribhaktas* and devotees, offering of the key of Museum campus to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj by the host devotee of *Udghatan Samarambh*, inauguration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum by opening the gate of the Museum by H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj and divine *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* in Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

(7) Divine Darshan of Group Aarti of Shree Swaminarayan Museum :

As stated above, beautiful arrangements were made for performing Group *aarti* of Shree Swaminarayan Museum. At about 8.30 p.m., all lights (except essential lights) were switched off and group *Aarti* was performed with candle light. This divine occasion is beyond any expression and its grandeur and divinity were experienced by those who participated in this group *Aarti*. Lucky are the devotees who could avail the benefit of this divine group *Aarti*.

(8) Divine Darshan of Things of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj in Shree Swaminarayan Museum :

When any *Haribhakta* or devotee performs divine *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj and cherishes the idol image of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan in his heart, he experiences



the divine *Darshan* of Shreeji Maharaj. In simple words, when we perform divine *Darshan* of *Mojdi* (footwear) of Shreeji Maharaj, we get divine *Darshan* of Shreeji Maharaj walking wearing this *Mojdi* and divine clothes and red turban on head. When we perform divine *Darshan* of teeth cleaner silver stick of *Prasadi*, we perform divine *Darshan* of Shreeji Maharaj sitting on *Dholiya* after the meals and cleansing the teeth with this silver stick. We also get reminded of *Pada* of Sadguru Shree Premanand Swami:

«KkELkkuLkKk [wfuhuh {kmLk ikō ŪkELku
 ĒkirkLku ¾kirkhu hu Mkæe YÄkLke ÷ELku
 {¼ōkmm ÷ELku hu Zk÷Pu rçkhksu
 Ākō fhu hu nrhSLk nūku Īksu

Similarly, when we perform divine *Darshan* of *Charma Kundala*, then we get divine *Darshan* of the *Yagna* of Jetalpur and the whole incident when some people poured Ghee meant for *Yagna* into the water of *Dev Sarover*. But when Shreeji Maharaj fills water in *Charma Kundala*, the water is transformed into Ghee and it is used in *Yagna*.

One *Ganika* of Jetalpur rendered the services of grinding the wheat for

preparing the wheat-flour to be used in preparing the meals on the occasion of *Yagna* of Jetalpur. Shreeji Maharaj granted her *Kalyan* equivalent to that of Muktanand Swami. When we perform divine *Darshan* of this grind-mill of *Prasadi*, we get divine *Darshan* of this whole incident. Then we also get reminded of *Pada* of Sadguru Shree Premanand Swami:

yrík ĒPkæw hu Mō¼kō Au Mōk{eLkku
 Ākh Ēw¼ nkhe hu ōkhe çkrw Lk{eLkku
 fkeLku Ēw¼Pku hu Ē¼e Lk ¾{kP;
 ĒPk ykye hu yrík ykfæk ŪkP.
 yōk ĀLk ō† hu ykÅkELku Ēw¼ xkæy
 fĀyk ārū hu Ē¼e ōkLks ōkæy

When we perform divine *Darshan* of *Akshaypatra* of *Prasadi* then we get divine *Darshan* of incident of the devotee Shri Ramdasbhai Patel of village Unava, Dist. Gandhinagar whose house was graced by Shreeji Maharaj and Shree Mulji Brahmchari had prepared *Shira* in this utensil and it was offered to so many devotees and thereby it became *Akshaypatra*.

We also perform divine *Darshan* of *Rangotsav* of *Vasant Panchmi* of Mulidham in our Museum and we get reminded of that great grand *Rangotsav* which was performed and celebrated by Shreeji Maharaj in Mulidham.

When we perform divine *Darshan* of Gate of residence of Vajiba of Vijapur and Peepal tree of *Prasadi*, we get reminded of the divine incident, when Shreeji Maharaj stayed at night alongwith Mulji Brahmchari at the residence of Vajiba and performed divine *Leela* of moving the *Peepal* tree and well with the divine touch of his lotus like feet. And we also get reminded of the



famous *Kirtan*, '**Charan Chanpi Pipalo Chalaviyo Re Lol**'.

When we perform divine *Darshan* of *Pitamber* and *Dhoti* of *Prasadi* which were used by Shreeji Maharaj at the divine occasion of invocation of idol image of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, we get divine *Darshan* of the whole invocation ceremony which was celebrated in a grand manner.

When we perform divine *Darshan* of silver made sprinkler, *Dhoti*, *Khes* and *Kediyu* used by Shree Hari on the occasion of Shree Narnaryandev Janmjayanti, then we get divine *Darshan* of Shreeji Maharaj playing *Rangotsav* with saints and *Haribhaktas*.

When we perform divine *Darshan* of *Gori* of Shri Jatanba of Dangarva in the Museum we get divine *Darshan* of the whole incident when Shreeji Maharaj is offering the meals to all *Haribhaktas* and milk and Ghee keep on coming from this divine *Gori*.

When we perform divine *Darshan* of iron sphere of *Prasadi*, we get divine *Darshan* of the incident wherein Shreeji Maharaj had protected Shri Kala Bhagat of Kundal village. Though re-hot iron sphere was held by Kala Bhagat in his hand, then also there was no injury to Kala Bhagat.

When we perform divine *Darshan* of *Kothi* of *Prasadi* in Museum, we get divine *Darshan* of the incident when Shreeji Maharaj graced the house of the devotee Shri Govindbhai of village Karjisan and the grains were offered to all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*, yet this *Kothi* was not emptied of the grains. In all Shreeji Maharaj had graced the village Karjisan for 36 times and every time the meals were offered to *Haribhaktas* from the same

Kothi and it was not emptied on any occasion.

Besides this, we also perform divine *Darshan* of *Charnavind*, *Chakhdi*, *Mojdi*, *Pitambar*, *Dhoti*, *Khes*, *Kediyu*, *Surval*, *Jamo*, *Shal*, *Pagh* of Shreeji Maharaj. We also get divine *Darshan* of the utensils which were used for offering *Thaal* to Shreeji Maharaj, currency coins of the time of Shreeji Maharaj, divine ornaments and jewellery items of Shreeji Maharaj, weapons being used by *Parshads* like Bhaguji to protect Shreeji Maharaj, *Shangaar* of horse of Shreeji Maharaj, *Darshan* of divine handwriting of Shreeji Maharaj, *Kundli* of Shreeji Maharaj which admeasures 150 to 180 feet. Divine *Darshan* of the scriptures written by *Lahiya* Saints of the time of Shreeji Maharaj, divine *Darshan* of musical instruments played in various *Utsav* and *Mahotsav* during the time of Shreeji Maharaj, *Madh* and *Dadar* of devotee Shri Jesangbhai Madh of Vahelal village, various types of bullock carts, divine *Darshan* of *Desh-Vibhag Lekh*, divine *Darshan* of all Acharya of Shree Narnarayandev Diocese from Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj till Acharya Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj and divine *Darshan* of all the Three Other Forms of Shree Hari, H.H. Shri Mot Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj.

About more than 1200 Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj for divine *Darshan* of devotees. Divine incidents of the life of Shreeji Maharaj are associated



with each of these Things of *Prasadi*. While performing divine *Darshan* of these Things of *Prasadi*, we get serenity and peace of mind.

Without divine Sankalp of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, we would not have got such a golden opportunity of performing divine *Darshan* of all these Things of *Prasadi* and that also at one place. Therefore, we all devotees and *Haribhaktas* are really indebted to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj for offering us such a divine Shree Swaminarayan Museum for the emancipation of all devotees and *Haribhaktas* of the whole *Sampradaya*.

The learned saints and *Satsangi Haribhaktas* have also offered Things of *Prasadi* in this Museum which they have inherited either from their Guru or from their ancestors. By selling these Things of *Prasadi*, these devotees could have earned lacs and crores of rupees but being the ardent devotees they have offered these Things of *Prasadi* in this Museum out of their divine *Bhakti* and devotion. And it is because of this reason that this Shree Swaminarayan Museum is divine and unique in the whole world.

(9) Amrutvani – mouthpiece of Shree Swaminarayan Museum :

Earlier, one television serial ‘Mahabharat’ was broadcast wherein anchoring in the background was being performed by ‘*Samay* (Time)’ symbolically represented by the wheel (Wheel of Time) and all the incidents and persons were introduced by this *Samay*. On the same line information about all incidents was presented in our Shree Swaminarayan Museum. Initially nobody understood as to

who was speaking what is being presented. But after some time, it was realized by all that, it was Shree Swaminarayan Museum itself, which was speaking!!! All were very much surprised and happy with this innovative idea. In this divine presentation, this Shree Swaminarayan Museum expressed its gratitude towards H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj who cherished the divine *Sankalp* of Museum and at last there were also words of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj expressing divine pleasure and satisfaction on realization of this divine *Sankalp*.

Sadguru Shri Nishkulanand Swami has stated about Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan:

युक्थुके आह आशुक्थुके {सिन्, इक्युआपुके {लकपलकुएम्.
 इकुके एपुके म्आकुपुके ? इकुक्कुर्दे {ककुकु {लकुके.

Moreover, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan Himself uttered these words for Himself:

आए «¼½ चकनःपु, इकु म्कु¼कु म्कु सलकु;
 पुकुधु «¼कु आकु {एयु इपुकु म्कु उकुपु म्कुआलकु.
 आए सु सु फुधु इकुलके इकु फुनु ओकु;
 ओकु-म्कुलकु ¼सु, ©enrh सु म्कुकुकुकु.
 {कु सलकु युकुकु सुह सआ {कु युकुधु
 रकुआ {कुत यु लकु कुकु यु म्कु सलकु सुकुधु
 एकुलकु एकु उकुलकु सु हनु म्कुकुकुकु;
 ¼ओकु इकुके ¼ए {कुकेप, हकु [ए इकुकु हकुकु
 इकु {कु इकु म्कु¼कु म्कुकुके म्कु लकुलकु;
 सु सु उकुपु आ सुकुकु, इकुकु कुकु लकु फलकु.
 म्कु¼ ए¼ युकुधु म्कु¼कु इकु कु कुकुपुकुआकु {कु;
 ओकुपु {कु सलकु ओकु फुपु सिकु युकु.
 यु फुकुकु कुकु आकुपु इकु कुकु म्कु¼ आयुकु ½यु
 आकु ओकु कु कुकुपु कुकु ¼कुकुपुकु म्कु म्कु कुकु
 लकु इकु इकु लकु इकु हनु फुधु इकु कुकु लकु;
 सु {कुपु आ इकु लकु इकु आकु आ युकुकु.

Dear *Satsangi Haribhaktas*,



Rendering Services is the best means to please Shree Hari

- Gordhanbhai V. Sitapara (Hirawadi- Bapunagar)

In our Scriptures, reference is made to many means to obtain pleasure of Almighty Lord. But it is learnt through experience that, it is Service rendered with ardent faith which is considered to be the best way to please Almighty God. If we look at the scripture 'Shiksha Patri' then we find that in Shloka-121 Shree Hari has stated :

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय
 ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

My philosophy rests in the theory of Vishishtadvaita. Golok Dhaama is my beloved abode. I believe Mukti (salvation) as being able to serve Lord Krishna as Brahmanrupa, in Goloka Dhaama.

In 'Vachanamrit' Shree Hari states that by rendering services one gets rid of all evils. By referring to the name of Uka Khachar, Shree Hari has narrated that, rendering services helps one get rid of all evils. In *Gadhda Middle Chapter-41* Shree Hari has stated that, 'one gets an opportunity to render services to Bhagwan or any Bhakta of Bhagwan then he should render his services by considering himself very lucky and

should render such services for happiness of Bhagwan and for emancipation of self only and not for any other purpose such as praise.' In *Gadhda First Chapter-31* Shree Hari has considered *Haribhakta* rendering services as the best. In *Gadhda First Chapter-43* Shree Hari has stated, 'Bhakta who does not wish Mukti but desires only services to Bhagwan, such Haribhakta is Nishkam Bhakta and he is always found beside Bhagwan and he gets everything in this world.

In *Gadhda Middle Chapter-63* Shree Hari has stated that nothing is comparable with ardent Bhakti of a devout devotee who is always eager to render his services all the time. Sadguru Shri Muktanand Swami, who is also known as 'Maa (mother) of Satsang' has also stated that, 'if one gets an opportunity to render lower type of services such a devotee is luckier.'

In *Shree Hari Charitramrut Sagar* it is stated, 'Service is the fruit of all means such as Samadhi, Dhya, Dharna, Japa, Tapa, Tirth, Daan, Punya and Nishtha.'

Many great deities like Indra, Chitraketu have obtained their great status by rendering services only. Those who have rendered services to Shree Hari, they have



earned the gold of the whole Universe in every second of his life. By rendering services, the human body become divine.

Service is considered to be real place of Emancipation. In Satsang Shree Hari has referred to *Dev* and *Acharya* as the Places of Emancipation. Through *Dev* and *Acharya*, various types of *Utsav* and *Samaiya* are performed in *Satsang*. And we get opportunity to render our services during such *Utsav* and *Samaiya* which are replete with the blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Here one gets an opportunity to render services with mind, body and money. Those who grab this opportunity, they are sure to get emancipation in their life. Moreover, there are such *Utsav*, *Samaiya* and acts of *Satsang* wherein blessings and directions of both Dharmvanshi Acharya Maharaj and the whole *Dharmkul* are there. Such *Utsav* and *Samaiyas* are an opportunity in one's life to obtain happiness of Shree Hari.

Time and again such type of divine and historical *Samaiya* and *Utsav* are being organized from Shree Narnarayandev Diocese. One such *Utsav* is our recent Shree Swaminarayan Museum inauguration *Mahotsav*. Thousands of big and small devotees and *Haribhaktas* rendered their services day and night with their body, mind and money for construction of Shree Swaminarayan Museum and they all obtained happiness of Shree Hari. By rendering such type of services is symbol of ardent worship and *Bhakti* towards Shree Hari. Without hard work one cannot earn money and to utilize money for *Dharma* is really a great sacrifice and similarly to render our services is also a symbol of our ardent faith and *Bhakti* towards Almighty Lord.

In every *Utsav*, from installation of *Vijay-Stambha* on the site of *Mahotsav*, devotees and *Haribhaktas* start rendering their services. Not only this, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and all members of *Dharmkul* also grace the place of *Mahotsav* and grant divine *Darsan* to devotees and *Haribhaktas*. It is experienced that, at the place of *Mahotsav* many *Haribhaktas* and devotees are seen rendering their services and observing them doing one or the other work, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj performs *Pranam* with divine pleasure as if Bhagwan Himself is accepting the services of the devout *Haribhaktas*!!! Here word 'Bhagwan' is used very carefully because our scriptures have described Acharya as Other Form of Shree Hari.

On the day before the commencement of *Mahotsav* and on the last day, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj conducted *Sabha* of volunteer *Haribhaktas* and devotees and blessed them all. On this occasion, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj referred to one such incident of rendering services. In the blessings H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj said,

'In one morning we came to Yagna-Shala. There one five years old girl was cleaning Yagna-Shala with broom in her hand. Real great is that little girl but greater are her parents who inculcated such noble qualities of services and Samskaras in so little child. It is because of such parents and such children that our future generations are safe under Satsang! People who came to visit Mahotsav were our guests, but those who rendered their services for making this Mahotsav a Success they are the real Owners of our Home i.e. Satsang.'

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj also said,
'Nowadays some jealous people take away the idol images of the Lord Shree



Narnarayandev from the box meant for worship of the idol images and spread rumour that **'those who will worship Shree Narnarayandev, they will go to Badrikashram and not in Akshardham.'** Now to spread such type of rumours against the Almighty Lord against the ways of worship prescribed in 'Vachnamrit' is treachery. And therefore, in Utsav organized by such persons, one does not get any happiness. Real happiness lies only in remaining under the directions of the Lord Shree Narnaranayandev and we are ready to go even to the hell while remaining under the directions of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. Shree Narnarayandev is Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. By following the Vedic traditions, Maharaj has not installed His Own image anywhere but through Shree Narnarayandev, Maharaj grants us divine Darshan. We do not go to and attend any Utsav where Almighty Lord is not

respected leaving the Lord Shree Narnarayandev or Shree Laxminarayandev. We are very proud of our saints and Haribhaktas. When anybody comes to us and praises our devotee or Haribhakta, we feel very proud. Our Sadhus are Tyagi even if they take meals in the golden dish or wear clothes in dark colours because they render great services to Satsang while remaining in our directions, they may be or may not be appointed as Mahant. Whereas, other people may be showing off by remaining hungry or performing Tapa but the moment they are transferred from one place to another, the reality will come out on its own. It is good that some people criticize us; it is the proof of our progress and development.'

At last, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed all devotees and Haribhaktas and saints who rendered their great services during Museum Mahotsav.

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Shreeji Maharaj got emancipation. Shreeji Maharaj also graced bullock-cart and horse-cart and they all got emancipation. Every person and everything, which were blessed by Shree Hari with a sight were adorned with emancipation. Abovementioned places became the places of pilgrimage with the divine grace of Shreeji Maharaj. And therefore, Sadguru Nishkulanand Swami has narrated this in later part of Chapter-47 of 'Purushottam Prakash':

ॐ ॐ y { khk ybkLknytkh hu
 çkrwMÄkp= MkkÄtMkEh hu
 yif «MkkEelktisüÄx hu
 { ॐuxॐuMkđuMkfx hu

yif ð† yLkÄk yrík hu
 Ükkp Äkçtkk Äkh { «kró hu
 yrík { nkí { p yLknyíkð hu
 fnkuöpküke { ॐyü { ðpuhu
 sisüy { khk MkkÄLke ðMíkhu
 Lk { ॐuokkÄkirk WÉp yMík hu
 sýMk y { MkkÄLke sisühu
 Auyüfðpkýfkhe { kLke ÷esuhu
 íkuíkuhk¾e Auy { üyÄkhu hu
 Mkkí sLk yÜkayk ðkhuhu

Now by collecting all such divine Things of Prasadi, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj has offered us divine Shree Swaminarayan Museum. By performing divine Darshan of this Museum, we have got the wonderful gift in our life.



Forever Memorable Shree Swaminarayan Museum of Sampradaya

- Prof. Suryakant Bhatt (Bhuj-Kachchh)



Bhagwan Shree Hari gives a specific type of inspiration to any person at some divine place. It is not possible for all to accept and understand such divine inspiration. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj was inspired for developing such a Museum while gracing the residence of one *Haribhakta*, He was shown only one *Paduka* – *Charanarvind* of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj. When inquired about the second *Paduka*, it was informed that, the two *Padukas* are distributed between two families.

Mota Maharaj Shri states that, 'On the same day, we thought about preserving invaluable Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj. In absence or decrease of *Satsang* in any family, Things of *Prasadi* may not be taken care of.' Mota Maharaj also states, 'Real *Prasadi* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is the Path shown by Him, the scriptures, '*Shiksha Patri*' itself is Other Form of Maharaj and Shree Hari is always present in *Kirtans* of Nand Saints.'

Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan was very benevolent. He used to grace the

houses of the rich as well as the poor devotees and accept their services during *Vicharan*. Sometimes being very much pleased with their services Maharaj used to offer His own precious ornaments and clothes, Things of *Prasadi* used by Him such as *Charnarvind*, *Kanti*, *Mala*, *Berkha*, utensils, pillows, shawl, *Zerian Vagha*, manuscripts, carts, *Rash*, reins of Manki horse, *Pitambar* of Shree Hari, blanket and pillows, Things of *Prasadi* of

Pooja, dish, bowls, glass and other utensils used by Him. With a noble aim of preserving all these Things of *Prasadi* and also their importance this Shree Swaminarayan Museum has been developed.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj also states, 'It is our duty to fulfil the desire of our father who offered His whole life for Shree Narnarayandev Diocese established by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. This Museum belongs to all devotees and *Haribhaktas* and here everyone feel the divine presence of Shree Hari. It is not an exhibition of physical things but it is realization of *Prasadi* of Bhagwan.'

When H.H. Shri Devendraprasadji Maharaj handed over the reins of *Sampradaya* to H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj on 13/10/1969, his age was just 25 years. From that day onwards, great work has been done for wonderful nourishment of *Satsang* in *Desh* as well as in abroad by performing constant *Vicharan* and



pilgrimage to many places all over the world. Even after retirement, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj undertook constant supervision of construction work of Museum at the site. For hours together He guided the engineers, structure designers, light decorators, contractors with tremendous peace of mind, kept on attending all mobiles and during all these He used to accept the invitations to grace *Utsav* and *Samaiya* and to grace the house of *Haribhaktas* and devotees. Even visit to the foreign countries to grace *Patotsav* of many temples kept on incessantly. Travelling in car from Bhuj (Kachchh) to Ahmedabad consumed time of six to seven hours and yet there was always happiness and smile on the face of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj.

It is a miracle that work of construction of Museum of crores of rupees has been completed on its own and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has never requested anybody for this. Shree Hari inspired all and the whole Museum is completed in time without any difficulties and obstacles. Moreover, all have contributed in this noble work and this is another miracle.

There has been total construction work admeasuring 1.75 lac square feet in the Museum which includes 13 different blocks. This Museum is developed on the land area admeasuring 31000 square yards. There has been 35% savings in electricity through LED light. Moreover, centralized Security System has been developed in the Museum. There have been layers of thermocol, double gloss, fly chess and glass and minimum of wood has been used. Electricity is used through Solar System and Wind Energy System.

Here Exhibition gallery is also developed for exhibition of the art for art-loving people and process has also been

started to start Certificate Course on *Museumlogy* for the first time in the history of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. Preservation of Things of *Prasadi* has been ensured through processing by preservative things.

Shreeji Maharaj Himself used to undertake the noble tasks of tree-plantation, developing wells and lakes and preserving the environment. About one thousand trees have been planted in the Museum which are being taken care of regularly. In the Museum devotees and *Haribhaktas* can have divine *Darshan* of handwriting, nails, hair, jaws of Shreeji Maharaj. All Things of *Prasadi* which were used by Shreeji Maharaj are preserved in the Museum developed at the cost of 40 crore Indian rupees and these Things of *Prasadi* will keep on granting divine *Darshan* to all devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj states, ***'This Museum is not confined or limited to only Shree Swaminarayan Museum. It has got its connections with Sanatan Vedic Culture and therefore after performing divine Darshan of Museum, one will have divine experience of Sat, Chit and Anand. We feel presence of Almighty Bhagwan at this divine place.'***

From 5th March 2011 to 9th March 2011, all the programmes organized and performed as part of Shree Swaminarayan Museum *Mahotsav* have been very interesting and this year 2011 will always be remembered and written in golden words in the history of Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya. So let us unite ourselves with this divine Shree Swaminarayan Museum and perform divine *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* of Bhagan Shree Swaminarayan which are preserved in the Museum.



Beauty of Museum

- Prof. Hitendrabhai Naranbhai Patel (Ahmedabad)

'Vanraj Bhagat... Oh Bhagat... I want to meet H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, right now!' I came out of the cellar at the residence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and it was the time of about three hours in the afternoon. But I realized the protocol of Sampradaya to be maintained and so I stood at one place and called Vanraj Bhagat. Hajuri Parshad Vanraj Bhagat came and saw tears in my eyes. He asked about my health. I said that, these tears are not due to any pain or sickness but these tears are due to happiness and joy. I told him that I wanted to meet H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj but he replied that, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj has been out of Ahmedabad and will return in the evening. Then I handed over the letter with signature of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan and explained to him the importance of the letter and asked him to hand over the letter to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and returned home in the evening.

This is an incident of the time before a few years when H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj was guiding all of us as H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj of Shree Narnarayandev Diocese. With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, I was entrusted with the task of compilation and arrangement of letters, papers, Prasadi of Things and his personal handwritten letters. During my work, I found from one old box, a letter with signature of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. I was very much thrilled and excited. A divine experience and feeling in my heart

engulfed me. It is not possible to describe or narrate that divine experience. It was simultaneous glimpse of image of Shreeji Maharaj and smiling face of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and except that there was complete blank in my mind. I did not trust my hands and eyes who were reading and touching the handwriting of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan!!! I realized that, it was due to noble qualities and Samskaras which were inculcated in me by my parents.

Despite hectic schedule of Grace of temples and houses of Haribhaktas, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj called me early in the morning at 6.00 hours on the next day and expressed happiness and pleasure and granted me permission to perform His *Darshan*. Immediately I reached there and I saw tremendous happiness on the face of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj blessed me and said, 'Hitendrabhai! You have rendered great services to us and also to Sampradaya. Ask whatever you want, today we are here to offer you whatever you want!' I was stunned at this. Today H.H. Shri Acharya of Shree Narnarayan Diocese was pouring nectar upon one simple Haribhakta and was honouring a pauper as a king!!! It was the greatness not of the recipient but of the Giver who is none else than H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. Utmost love and affection which were replete in words and on the face of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj which I still remember very vividly.

H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj told me again, '*Hitendrabhai, what are you*



There have been so many such Things of *Prasadi* in *Sampradaya* but its proper care and preservation are essential. It is a great thing that, as per the noble aim of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, this Museum will be preserved and maintained through scientific methods. All saints and *Haribhaktas* warmly welcomed this noble aim and offered Things of *Prasadi*, which they were having with them and it was source of great inspiration for all. This was followed by the constant flow of services being rendered by all *Haribhaktas* wherever H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj graced the houses of the devotees and *Haribhaktas*. During such Vicharan, no time schedule was being maintained as sometimes it was the time of midnight 2.00 hours when H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj graced the houses of the devotees and *Haribhaktas*! However, all devotees were granted this benefit and sometimes it was hectic schedule of about 18 hours for H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and yet there was always smile on His face!!!

We all know, in practical life how it is difficult to obtain one rupee from others whereas here lacs of rupees were coming without any demand or request, without placing in plaque or name-plate. Not only this, the devotees and *Haribhaktas* offered Things of *Prasadi* in Museum and without any expectation!!! All this is possible only with the blessings of Shree Hari.

There is renunciation and sacrifice in the base of Museum. Many *Path-Pooja* and *Yagna* etc. have been performed on the place where Museum has been developed and therefore the very place is very pious. This place is not less important from any temple established by Shree Hari in any respect! Things of *Prasadi* of Bhagwan

Shree Swaminarayan are divine and Shree Hari resides there and when H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj himself installs these Things of *Prasadi* in Museum then their importance is increased manifold. Fragrance of service rendered by saints and *Haribhaktas* is coming out of each brick of this museum and it grants grandeur to such selfless service. It echoes the silence of the silent services rendered by many devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

This Museum is not a place of any exhibition but it is a place to perform divine *Darshan*. Not only this there are nail, hair, jaws, teeth and *Asthi* of Shree Hari whose *Darshan* gives the devotee divine pleasure and happiness. Shreeji Maharaj Himself was great and learned and it is evident from *Shlokas* written by him in different scriptures. According to the scriptures, Shreeji Maharaj took pen and wrote on papers only four times during the incarnation on this earth. (1) Prepared *Gutko* of *Satshastras* (2) letter addressed to Shree Ramanand Swami (3) written '*Shiksha Patri*' (4) letter for administrative purpose for Kalupur Ahmedabad temple.

Out of these, first three writings are not available. However, the last letter written for administrative purpose has somehow been preserved in tradition of Acharya and this only letter is also offered by *Dharmkul* to the *Satsang*! All these Things of *Prasadi* are divine in nature and are capable of granting us emancipation. They fill the atmosphere with piety and sanctity and the energy generated from them take us closer to Shree Hari.

Shangar of *Manki* horse is so attractive and living that, we feel that, procession of *Manki* horse would start from here in a while. Here are preserved the weapons



which were kept by *Parshads* of Shree Hari. Here there are also Scriptures of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj which dispel all our inner darkness. There are utensils and other Things of *Prasadi* which have been used by Shree Hari during Yagna and on many such religious occasions. One feels the echo coming out of the flute of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj. There are 16 signs of Charnarvind of Shree Hari. We also experience the divinity and grandeur of Pithadhipati of Shree Narnarayandev Diocese when we perform Things of *Prasadi*. Nothing can be compared with the unique letter of *Prasadi* with signature of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. How can we repay to H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj for such a grand and great gift to Sampradaya when we perform divine *Darshan* of this letter ?! Perhaps we may have rendered our services of body, mind and money; but what we have got in turn is unique and thereby we have ensured emancipation of our life.

If all of us follow the following rules and regulations while performing divine *Darshan* of our Shree Swaminarayan Museum, then Shreeji Maharaj would be very much happy with us.

- (1) In the Museum are placed Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj. And therefore Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is present in them and there is no doubt about it. So we should perform *Darshan* with utmost faith and devotion. We should always remember that it is not a tourist place; it is a religious place.
- (2) We should come to this place by taking bath and should ensure piety.
- (3) We cannot come to this place by wearing inappropriate clothes.

- (4) We cannot eat anything such as chocolate, Pan, *Masala* etc. while performing *Darshan* in Museum.
- (5) We cannot talk about our worldly affairs in the Museum. We should remember *Leela-Charitra* of Shreeji Maharaj only in the Museum.
- (6) We should carefully read writings and history of Things of *Prasadi* and should try to understand them.
- (7) We should observe complete discipline and humility and should perform *Darshan* peacefully.
- (8) We should be careful that, if we touch any Things of *Prasadi* with our impure hands, it will also affect Things of *Prasadi* and it is a sinful act.
- (9) We should strictly follow the instructions of the volunteers and we should not try to find out in any exception to these instructions.
- (10) We should try to understand the greatness and humility of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, who offered to all of us, the golden opportunity to perform divine *Darshan* of these Things of *Prasadi* and in this sense we should try to understand the importance. We should feel and also express our obligation towards the donor-devotees who have rendered their great services for this Museum. And for all this, we should perform *Dandvat Pranam* to Shree Hari.

Even after the inauguration of Museum, saints and *Haribhaktas* keep on offering many other Things of *Prasadi* for the Museum and therefore such newly obtained Things of *Prasadi* will also be placed for *Darshan* in the Museum and therefore we all should avail the benefit of divine *Darshan* again and again.





Only Mahabhishek by Devotees in Sampradaya Shree Swaminarayan Museum, Ahmedabad

While invocation of the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev, Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan also offered small idol image of Shree Narnarayandev of *Chal Swarup*, for *Palkhi*, *Hindola* and *Janmotsav Darshan*.

After some time, the tradition of *Chal Swarup* of Shree Harikrishna Maharaj began and this idol image of *Prasadi* was kept in *Pooja* by H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj as per the tradition of *Dharmkul*. Now this divine idol image of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of *Chal Swarup* has been placed for divine *Darshan* in Main Hall of Shree Swaminarayan Museum.

Now as a symbol of blessings, H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj have been pleased to grant permission to perform divine *Darshan* and *Mahapooja-Mahabhishek* of this *Chal Swarup* of idol image of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of *Prasadi* to all devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

Accordingly, all devotees and *Haribhaktas* can avail the benefit of divine *Mahabhishek* of this idol image of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of *Chal*

Swarup of *Prasadi* in the morning from 9.00 to 11.00 hours. Many devotees and *Haribhaktas* have already availed the benefit of this divine *Mahabhishek*.

Those devotees who wish to avail this divine benefit, then they can do booking through the below mentioned telephone or email on the day and *Tithi* of their choice.

If due to certain circumstance or due to distance, it is not possible to remain present, then arrangements are also made for performing *Sankalp* on behalf of the devotees and *Mahabhishek* would be performed on the day booked by such devotees.

In *Mahabhishek* alongwith *Mahapooja*, at a time 50 *Haribhaktas* can avail the benefit and in *Mahabhishek* on 25 *Haribhaktas* can avail the benefit at a time. The representatives authorised by the devotees can also avail the benefit of *Mahabhishek*.

As far as possible, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj will perform *Mahabhishek* on behalf of the devotees and *Haribhaktas*.

Services of Rs.51,000/- for *Mahabhishek* alongwith *Mahapooja*

Services of Rs.25,000/- for *Mahabhishek*

List of Host devotees who availed the benefit of Abhishek of Shree Narnarayandev

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 10/03/2011 | Chief Host Devotee Shri Rasikbhai Ambalal Patel (Mokhasanwala, at present USA) through devotees Sanjaybhai and Jayeshbhai |
| 13/03/2011 | Devotee Shri Pritiben Darpeshkumar Patel through Prahladbhai Patel |
| 17/03/2011 | Devotee Shri Radhika Pankajbhai Patel through Prahladbhai Patel |
| 19/03/2011 | Devotee Shri Babubhai Arjanbhai Patel, Bapunagar |
| 20/03/2011 | Devotee Shri Kalpeshbhai Ghanshyambhai Marfatiya |
| 12/04/2011 | Devotee Maneklal Narandas Patel (Amerika-N.J.) |
| 18/04/2011 | Devotee A.N. Bhogilal Ishvardas, Induben Bhogilal, Ramanlal Ishvardas (Langhanajvala), Manjulaben Ramanlal (U.S.A.) Haste Jitubhai Bhogilal, Birthday (Coloniya-N.J.) |
| 20/04/2011 | Museum All Staf |
| 24/04/2011 | Jagadishbhai J. Darji, Nirajkumar J. Darji (Ahmedabad-Bopal) |

The above devotees have been lucky enough to avail the benefit of divine Mahabhishek of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev.

For booking of Mahapooja/Mahabhishek contact :

www.swaminarayanmuseum.org/com • E-mail : swaminarayanmuseum@gmail.com

Devotee Shri Karsanbhai Raghvani : Mobile No. 98250 65902, 99744 91522

Devotee Shri Parshottambhai (Dasbhai, Bapunagar) : Mobile No. 99250 42686



Shree Swaminarayan Museum – Lap of Piety

- Atul Bhanuprasad Pothiwala (Memnagar-Ahmedabad)

There are a number of Museums all over the world. Each of these Museums has its own unique history and identity. By and large, a museum preserves rare and very ancient things. These things are preserved in scientific manner and they are placed for Display artistically.

On the pious day of Fagan Sud-3 (*Pratistha Din* of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev) 08/03/2011, inauguration of the grand and divine and rare Shree Swaminarayan Museum was performed in the evening. Thousands of *Satsangi* devotees, esteemed personalities, guests, invitees thronged together in the pious company of all Three Acharya Maharaj of Dharmakul (H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Iajji Maharaj). Accordingly H.H. Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj laid open the Museum and offered it to the whole world and the *Satsang Samaj*.

Undoubtedly, Shree Swaminarayan Museum is different from all other museums of the world. It is unique and wonderful and class apart. There are innumerable places of pilgrimage all over the world and the pilgrims keep on visiting them incessantly. The only string which binds them together is Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. There is common divine element in all the religions of the world and that divine element is inspired by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan.

All Things of Prasadi which were used by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan during His Vicharan on this earth, all things which were sanctified by His divine touch and all such things which were offered to the

devotees and Haribhaktas as Prasadi by Him are brought together at one place wonderfully.

The very formation of the Museum Campus is unique. Though one may not find it very big yet the architectural structure gives one sense of grandeur and magnanimity. It is spacious, airy surrounded by the greenery and fountains. The floor and the walls are made of mirroring marbles. There are spacious halls replete with Sattvik purity and the whole campus is found surrounded by divine piety. This Museum is not made for any personal or professional fame but it is an expression and embodiment of the noble feeling of granting welfare of all human beings and therefore Shree Swaminarayan Museum is unique and unique from all other museums of the world!

Many rare Things of Prasadi placed in the Museum are preserved in Dharmkul received and inherited from their forefathers. These words of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj is the essence of the noble feelings behind developing this divine Museum. H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj says:

“In stead of preserving these things in shelf, if they are placed for Darshan of the devotees, and if importance of these Things of Prasadi is cherished and remembered in the hearts of the devotees and Haribhaktas then, it will help them get emancipation.”

Anyone who visits Museum certain feels in his heart that, what a wonderful Things of Prasadi we have in our Museum!



And we will not find such Divine Things anywhere in this whole Universe!

There is another important thing to be noted is that, we get history of each Thing of Prasadi which are placed for display in the scriptures of our *Sampradaya*. This means that, these are historical facts and it is acknowledged by all. The noble feeling of give and take is shown between Dhramkul and the Haribhaktas and the saints.

From the beginning of the work of Museum, many miracles have happened. Many people have laboured days and nights together for accomplishment of this noble task. The architect, engineer, builder and artisan of this Museum has been Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan himself!!! The divine vibrations of Things of *Prasadi* are still felt and the very sight (divine *Darshan*) of these Things of *Prasadi* gives us feeling of divine happiness.

There are 08 halls in the Museum and all Things of *Prasadi* are placed in such a way in each of these halls that we get *Leela Charitra* of Shreeji Maharaj in chronological order. Here there are *Pitambar* and other things used by Shreeji Maharaj at the time of invocation of the idol images of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev. There is *Desh Vibhag Lekh*; *Nitya Pooja*, *Charanarvind* and boxes of *Nitya Pooja* given by Shreeji Maharaj and Things of *Pratah-Pooja* (morning worship) of Shreeji Maharaj Himself are placed here. There is scene of *Yagna* of Jetalpur and other utensils of *Prasadi* used on that occasion.

Spectacles of Nand Saints and the vivid scene of *Sabha* of *Vachanamrit* and many other rare scriptures such as '*Ashramopnishad*', '*Gun Vibhag Panch Ratna*', '*Dharmakhyan*' by Dharmanand Swami, '*Vivek Chintamani*' etc. are also

placed for display in the Museum. 185 feet Kundli of Shreeji Maharaj made by Adharanand Swami and 155 feet Kundli of Shreeji Maharaj made by Shastri of Vadhwani. Clothes and stone of bath being used by Shreeji Maharaj in Rangmahol are placed here for divine *Darshan*.

Flute played by Shreeji Maharaj on the bank of the river Kalubhar and Khesh used by Shreeji Maharaj at the time of Mundan ritual. The stick with which Shreeji Maharaj exposed the conspiracy of Peshwa in the Fort of Bhadra is also placed for divine *Darshan*.

Pat, the clothes and the sprinklers with which Shreeji Maharaj used to celebrate *Rangotsav* in the premises of Shree Narnarayandev temple, Ahmedabad are also placed for *Darshan*. The iron sphere with which the truth of Kala Bhagat of Kundal was tested and other Things of *Prasadi* received from the successors of the great devotee are placed for *Darshan*. Similarly clothes and utensils with which milk was poured continuously at the residence of Jatanba of Dangarva and the bamboo box of Gangama of Jetalpur, *Khandaniyu* and other utensils which were used for preparing the meals for Shreeji Maharaj are also placed for divine *Darshan*. The utensils in which Shreeji Maharaj accepted the meals in the village Vihar, the ladder of *Prasadi* of Kashlibai of Mahesana and other utensils are also placed for *Darshan*.

Mridang being played by Shri Brahmanand Swami and the bows used at village Aadraj and the shield of Bhaguji and other weapons and chariot are also placed for divine *Darshan*. In the Hall No.2 of the first floor, various types of weapons being used by Parshad and Kathi Darbar and the chariot offered to Maharaj by Jitba of



Chaloda and the Shangaar of Manki horse and Ambadi of the elephant and its Shangarr and the award and the silver utensils and ornaments and currency coins offered by Sayajirao Gaekwar are also placed for divine *Darshan*.

In the Hall No.3 of the first floor, there is beautiful scene of Shree Hari playing Raas in the village Panchala. There are clothes used by Shree Hari at the time of *Rangotsav* of Muli. There is also utensil wherein the sweet called 'Shiro' was offered during the summer season and there are sprinklers of *Rangotsav*. Chandarvo used at the time of Raas at village Panchala, the silver Pashmini Shawl worth Rs.8 lacs (of the relevant time) and there are also chains and the hook of the *Hindola* used by Shree Hari. Moreover, there are blanket, pillow and the utensil of water of Prasadi used at the residence of Vajiba of Vijapur.

In Hall No.4 of the first floor, the cart of Prasadi carrying the stones from Idar and Madh of Vahelal, ladder, the tree of Rayan and the utensils used by Shree Hari at the time of Yagna of Dabhan. *Shangar* of elephant and the incident of *Chorasi* of Kankaria are also depicted very beautifully and artistically.

In Hall No.1,2,3 and 4 depict this *Darshan Yatra* beautifully. The Hall No.5 is called '*Maun Hall*'. Here five projects are presented. (1) the historical silver idol image of Prasadi of Shree Narnarayandev whom *poojan-archan* were being performed by Shreeji Maharaj himself. This divine idol image whom daily *poojan-archan* were being performed by H.H. Shri Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj is placed for *Darshan* in the beautiful silver throne.

Aadi Acharya Shri Ayodhyaprasadji

Maharaj led a very busy life for nourishment for nourishment of Satsang and yet the daily time for offering *poojan-archan* to the Lord Shree Narnarayandev was never reduced or decreased by him. Once when Aadi Acharya Maharaj was performing divine *poojan-archan*, a scorpion came there and stung Him on his back and yet Aadi Acharya Maharaj was unaware about it due to state of Samadhi in divine worship! After some time when the ritual of *poojan-archan* was over, the devotees and Parshad saw the scorpion and they shouted and removed the insect immediately. They requested Aadi Acharya Maharaj Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj to apply some herbal medicine to get relief from the burning pain caused by the stings; but Aadi Acharya Maharaj said that it will be cured on its own!!!

It is the same throne and the idol image of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj. All the five things of Prasadi of '*Maun Hall*' are divine, whose *Darshan* grants spiritual and rare experience to all the devotees.

(2) Teeth and jaws of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj and the golden-silver stick of Prasadi which was being used by Shree Hari to clean His teeth.

(3) One and the only original letter of Sampradaya written by Shreeji Maharaj Himself with His signature!

(4) *Asthi* of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj (preserved in silver *Kumbh*).

(5) Nail and Hair of Prasadi of Shreeji Maharaj.

All these five Things of Prasadi are of Shreeji Maharaj whose divine *Darshan* gives divine experience of spirituality to all devotees and *Haribhaktas*. It is the atmosphere of divine serenity where one can perform *Mala*.



Hall No.6 : In this hall, there are letters of *Prasadi* written in Devnagri script and the pens and ink-pots of *Prasadi*. Incident of *Leela* performed at the residence of Kesinibai of Devaliya and the tree of *Varkhadi* wherein Shreeji Maharaj had conducted *Sabha* in Karjisan and other utensils and *Kothi* of grains of *Prasadi* are also placed.

Hall No.7 : In this hall, there are clothes, Pagh, topi, badge and other rare photos of tradition of Acharya from H.H. Shri Aadi Acharya Maharaj till present H.H. Shri Acarya Maharaj 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and H.H. Shri Lalji Maharaj Shri Vrajendraprasadji Maharaj. There is a small auditorium beside this hall wherein a documentary film of 20 minutes narrating brief introduction of Shree Swaminarayan Sampraday is shown.

Thus, from the 1st Hall till the last 7th Hall, we get a divine *Darshan* of so many Things of *Prasadi* placed wonderfully and divinely. Here list of prominent Things of *Prasadi* is given. This list is illustrative and not exhaustive as the list of all Things of *Prasadi* is very long. These things are hand-fan of Maharaj, *Buranpuri Khes*, *Pitamber* used at the time of accepting *Diksha*, silver *Palkhi*, diamonded studded necklace and bracelet, *Chakhdi*, *Pagh* used by Shreeji Maharaj, the utensils used for *poojan-archan*, stone made conch worshipped as Shivji, beads of *Kanathi* of *Prasadi*, handkerchief, *Mojdi*, *Chhattar*, various types of bed-sheets, *Dhoti*, *Kediya*, *Surval* and many other things of *Prasadi* which were used by Shreeji Maharaj.

The point to be noted here is that, all Things of *Prasadi* are not purchased. With the divine inspiration of Shreeji Maharaj,

they are offered to the Museum by *Dharmkul*, saints and *Haribhaktas*. This is not merely a museum of the precious things like Kohinoor diamond. Performing *Darshan* of all these Things of *Prasadi* is like performing pilgrimage of the divine places of pilgrimage because it contains all those Things of *Prasadi* which were used by Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan just before 250 years during His *vicharan* on this earth!

The tradition of original Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya is not only *Bhajan* of Bhagwan but it is Healthy Life Style- an Eco-friendly Life Style. There are directions and noble aims of *Sampradaya* to lead a social life while performing worship and *Bhajan* of Almighty Lord. One becomes happy only by making others happy- is the motto of *Satsang* in the *Sampradaya*.

Shree Swaminarayan Sampradaya sets before us a noble example of preserving what is the best in our tradition and culture and Sampradaya. By performing *Darshan* of divine Things of *Prasadi* of Shreeji Maharaj Haribhaktas inculcate in themselves noble qualities of preserving and nourishing the best of Sampradaya in their life.

"It is our duty to preserve ethics and values embodied through all these Things of Prasadi. If we perform Darshan of all these Things of Prasadi then it will ensure emancipation many souls of this earth." These are divine blessings of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj which should constantly cherish in our heart and mind while performing *Darshan* of Things of *Prasadi* of our Museum.

A place where the saints prefer to

(Con. from page 26)



Besides construction of Shree Swaminarayan Museum

- Praful Kharsani

Human birth is an accident and art of becoming a human being is the moral duty entrusted with us unknowingly. There are so many such accidents which are not of our choice. In the words of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, '*Just as Birth, Marriage and Death are pre-destined, man also brings with his birth, the opportunities to render the services. Everybody does not get such an opportunity because only the lucky persons get such opportunities in their life.*' And in this way, I am lucky because, I have got an opportunity to render the services in construction work of Shree Swaminarayan Museum from *Khat Muhurt* till *Udghatan*



(inauguration).

At the time of *Khat Muhurt* of Shree Swaminarayn Museum in the year 2005, I had not even imagined that when in the year 2011 this Museum would be ready, it will be so grand and beautiful. In the subsequent years, I used to visit the site of museum regularly and take photographs of ongoing construction work of Museum and upload them on our website so that *Haribhaktas* residing all over the world can be updated about the progress of work of

Museum.

But the real work began before one year. All Things of Prasadi were brought from residence of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj to small office of Shree Swaminarayan Museum site. In this little office, work of taking photographs, measurement, giving identification number and documentation of Things of Prasadi was started. I was joined by other four five *Haribhaktas*. We were careful in maintaining cleanliness while doing this important work. We were wearing masque and hand-gloves while doing the work of documentation. But I was lucky enough to get the divine benefit of touching All these Things of Prasadi. This work was completed in a period of about one month. Thereafter all the data which was ready was handed over to Shri P.P. Swami and Shri Nirgun Swami for narrating history and religious importance of these Things of Prasadi. It was very difficult to arrange these Things of Prasadi as per the Theme determined earlier. It was difficult to find out a balanced answer amidst Yes and No. But both these great saints did beautiful work and distributed Things of Prasadi as per the theme of *Leela Charitra* of Maharaj. Both these saints had granted me permission to give them call at any time. In a match all the players do not play but the players who play, they play for the whole team. Similarly, both these saints did very beautiful and praiseworthy work on behalf of all the saints.

Thereafter, the work of how to display these Things of Prasadi was begun. Devotee Shri Karsanbhai, who was honoured with the title 'Dada Khachar' by



H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, was with us. In every aspect of construction work of Museum, his contribution was praiseworthy but what is noteworthy about him is that, he was always at ease and peace in all critical conditions. The whole work of Museum was completed in waiting to see him angry.

A kite in the sky reaches the nearest terrace with the help of the wind and it also enjoys the freedom of flying in an open sky. I also got an open sky in the form of Shree Swaminarayan Museum and there were blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj. With the

guidance and constant and regular visit of both H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, the work of designing for arrangement of about 1200 Things of



Prasadi in 63 incidents in all the halls was started. Simultaneously, work of preservation of Things of *Prasadi* was also to be done. After contacting a number of agencies, at last it was decided to develop an ultra-modern laboratory in the Museum itself and to undertake the preservation work because these Things were common things for any outsider layman but for *Satsang Samaj* these Things of *Prasadi* were very precious and they had great reverence due to its history and religious importance. Therefore, the work of preservation was started in the Museum itself and that also with the help of Ayurvedic herbal medicines which are popular from the ancient time of Vedic period.

While work of developing design for arrangement of these Things of *Prasadi* was started, a small but very relevant and

crucial suggestion came from H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, who stated, 'Things of *Prasadi* should not be subordinated with the scene or background.' Accordingly, it was determined to develop pictures in Shapiyaton Duaton and for that three artists Vijay Shrimali, Navin Soni and Kamlesh Makwana were entrusted with this task of developing these pictures in the museum itself so that, under constant supervision necessary modifications can also be made as and when required. While developing Mannequin in Diorama, it was kept in mind that, it does not turn out to be an Exhibition. And therefore, ensuring that importance of Things of *Prasadi* is preserved, it was determined to colour the Mannequin with single golden and silver colors. It was also determined to prepare Monochrome in the background in Maannequin and to highlight only the 'Object'.

Thereafter, work of developing Design of Display as per the incidents-Halls, as distributed by the saints, was started. During this time, H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj used to come at site regularly and to make necessary suggestions while observing the work. Some of these suggestions were to print the letter of *Prasadi* on glass and to enlarge Charnarvind and then to display so that, people can have a look at the details. Not only this, all other relevant and additional information was only furnished through Internet.

On finalization of Showcase Design, the work of arrangement of lights was undertaken. Though it appears very easy and simple but experience tells that, it is very difficult task. If the lights are dim, then visitors and Haribhaktas cannot have clear look of These Things of *Prasadi* and if there was dazzling light then it was difficult to



preserve them. Moreover, keeping the Concept of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj of developing Eco-friendly Museum, it was determined to use LED lights. However, its fittings were costly if outsourced through any agency. As we were constantly present at the site, we knew how every rupee was coming for Museum. One widow saved the money from the treatment of her mentally retarded child and also from his household expenses, and rendered her services for Museum. A child had offered all his Pocket Money for Museum. When any economically weak Haribhakta would come with big amount, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj used to say no with the eyes getting wet. Therefore, there were greater responsibilities on us to see that, every single rupee is used properly and it is not wasted. Therefore, it was determined to develop fitting in Museum itself. We were joined by Shri Jagdishbhai Shah. He did not think about his factory and remained with us for three months and this greatly relieved the tension of devotee Shri Karsanbhai. By that time, the date of inauguration of Museum came very close!!!

Preparing Graphic Panels, developing system and work of arranging Things were yet to be done. But H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj used to say at every moment of

construction work of Museum, Shree Hari performs miracles and as an evidence thereof many ladies devotees and even other ladies joined in the work of museum. Yet everyone of us was worried whether we will be able to complete the work before the schedule time of inauguration on 8th Mach 2011. but along with devotee Shri Karsanbhai, we all decided to complete the work of Museum in time by doing the work day and night. And a Mission began to complete the work of Museum and to



realize the aim and dream of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and amidst the surprise of all, we could do that because it was the work of Shreeji Maharaj and there were blessings of His descendants. We were only the medium.

Even H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj has not taken rest for even a single day right from the beginning. Constant Vicharan in foreign countries for fund and there after in determining design and thereafter in construction work, on every day and on every occasion, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj remained present all the time. During the whole process of construction work, H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj took all pains and labour for accomplishing this task and with the blessings of the Lord Shree Narnarayandev and H.H. Shri Achrya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj, we all could accomplish the task in time.



SERVICES OF ISSO SEVA DURING EARTHQUAKE-TSUNAMI OF JAPAN



Devastation. Destruction. Starvation. Resilience. Courage. Compassion. These are some of the words used to describe the effects of the earthquake which struck Japan a few weeks ago. The quake measured 8.9 on the Richter scale resulting in a massive tsunami devastating the northeast coast of Japan. The tsunami was of such might and force that it didn't preserve anything in its path, leaving people who survived with nearly nothing left. People of all ages, classes were now unsure of where they would get food to survive. The will of the Japanese people though is to endure. They have come to each others' aid, exhibiting great courage during such trying times. The compassion they have extended to one another by waiting patiently on lines, not looting stores, maintaining order and

refusing to be overwhelmed by panic is a testament to their will to survive and recover. They will need great assistance though.

Aim of ISSO Seva is to help individuals that are less fortunate with regards to healthcare and illness, due to either a lack of available medical resources or a result of ill-fated events such as natural disasters or distressed circumstances. Regardless of where on Earth the need may be, ISSO Seva is prepared to provide assistance. ISSO Seva is a humanitarian organization and people of all creeds, religions, and races will be given assistance by Seva. To be charitable to the poor and needy is a mandate set forth by Lord Swaminarayan.

Without a moment's delay, ISSO Swaminarayan Temples across the U.S. mobilized fundraising efforts to help those in dire need. The contributions exceeded expectations and ISSO Seva is proud to have lent a helping hand. As dutiful servants to cause of compassion, rely on ISSO Seva to help and get the work done. Volunteer to help Seva aid causes aimed at helping those in unfortunate circumstances and pain.



**WHAT AFTER THE EXAMINATIONS?
-Shastri Haripriyadas (Gandhinagar)**

How worried are our students? Some illiterate persons erroneously think that the students have no worries because they just eat, study and pass the leisure time happily and that they have no worries about occupation, service, business and no any family liabilities. But it is not true.

In fact students have greater worries. They are worried about their result. After loitering and wandering for ten months and attending schools only physically, they get worried the moment the Examination Schedule is declared. They start working overnight preparing for exams and appear in annual examinations. But the moment question papers are distributed in the Examination Hall, their worries are intensified. Some of these students may have gone through 'Sure Suggestions' and learnt some of the question by heart but none of them were asked in the examinations. Now whom to blame? Either the paper-setter or the supervisor. It was a sigh of relief on their face the moment their examinations were over.

Now what is the worry? Examinations are over but now they are worried about the result. These students already informed their parents and the friends and relatives that, they had performed better in the examination and they were expecting either first class or minimum higher second class. But in the bottom of their heart, they know the harsh reality and therefore internally they are confused and worried about their result and now they do not know as to what to do.

These students perform many *Badha*, *Vrata* of Hanumanji and other deities wishing for the good result. They go to

**सत्संग बालवाटिका
SATSANG BALVATIKA**

- Compiler Shastri Harikehsavdasji (Gandhinagar)

temple on every Saturday to perform *Darshan* of Shree Hanumanji Maharaj and performing many rituals. Now we can see that these students are in fact very much worried.

This situation is not limited to the students only. It affects all the human beings. This world is an examination hall of Almighty Lord, all human beings are students appearing in this Great Examination of Life and situations and events occurring in their lives are Examination Papers. If the questions of these examination papers are not answered correctly and honestly then what will happen?

Suppose if a real student fails in his school examination then he can re-appear in the examination and clear the papers but it is not possible to get such an opportunity in Examination of Life. Therefore, if we pass these examinations by performing *Samagam* of the saints and by studying the Scriptures then, Almighty Lord becomes very happy with us. Here no argument, logic and intellect would be useful. If you have passed your life honestly and truthfully then only you will pass in this Examination of Life.

When the examinations of the schools and colleges are over, the students are found killing their time meaninglessly. They gossip for hours with their friends and thereby kill their valuable time. Instead the students should go the temple and should perform divine *Darshan* of Almighty Lord, should study the scriptures such as '*Shiksha Patri*', '*Vachanamrit*', '*Satsangi Jivan*' etc. They should also help their



parents in day to day work of their house and should keep themselves busy in inculcating good habits. If students become real human being in this way as stated hereinabove, then they will certainly pass Examination of Life.

Therefore, many students have already decided to use the vacation time meaningfully by going to the temple and performing divine *Darshan* of Almighty Lord, to perform *Samagam* of the saints, to render their services to their parents at home etc. thus, they have decided not to waste the time of vacation.

BHAGWAN IS OMNIPRESENT

- Sadhu Shri Rangdas
(Gandhinagar)

Leela Charitra of Bhagwan Swaminarayan is divine and it is due to these numerous *Charitra* that, He is called and remembered and worshiped by various names. One such name of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is '*Shree Vasudev*'. It means that: "ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय" That means Almighty Lord is present everywhere. The Lord is Omnipresent and therefore he is called '*Vasu*' who is present in every atom of this Universe. Here is one such incident showing that Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan is Present everywhere.

One woman of a village was an ardent devotee of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan. Early in the morning she used to prepare the meals for her husband. She was preparing the loaves on the domestic furnace. The first loaf was prepared so well that, the lady uttered the words, '*This is a very beautiful loaf, Shree*

Hari would like to accept it.' She prepared all other items and started towards the field to give it to her husband, who was working there. Though she had prepared the meals for her husband but in her heart there was chanting the name of Shree Hari. On her way she came across one horse-rider; she got frightened as she was alone and there was nobody around. The moment the horse-rider came closer, she was surprised to see the horse-rider with red turban riding Manki horse. At first instance, she could not believe this, as she thought, Shree Hari as well as Manki horse had been to Akshardham. But the moment Manki horse came closer, she could recognize Maharaj!!! She was surprised and was very much happy. The horse-rider demanded something to eat. The woman immediately offered the meals to Maharaj which she had prepared for her husband.

But Maharaj said that, He wanted only that loaf, which she was preparing early in the morning and uttered the words, '*This is a very beautiful loaf, Shree Hari would like to accept it.*' Maharaj accepted half of that loaf and the other half was returned as *Prasadi*. While the woman started packing the meals for her husband; the very next moment there was none on the way. Neither the horse-rider nor Manki horse!!! There was only the remaining portion of loaf of *Prasadi*. It was loaf of *Prasadi* of Maharaj.

The lesson which we have to learn from this incident is that, if we worship Almighty Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan ardently and whole-heartedly then Vasudev Shree Swaminarayan Bhagwan will certainly come to fulfill our desires and wishes.

[Source : *Shree Janmangal Katha Bhashya*]



¼ AŌ Ī kMkwAk

BHAKTI-SUDHA

(Surendranagar)

Shraddha (faith) plays a very crucial role in *Bhakti* (worship). The more faithful we are, closer is Bhagwan to us. If there is no *Shraddha* in our heart, then we cannot get divine *Darshan* and blessings of Almighty Lord. Lord Shree Krishna was there in front of Duryodhan as well as Meerabai and Narsinh Mehta. But Duryodhan could not obtain any benefit of pious company of the Lord Shree Krishna because he did not have any *Shraddha* whereas Meerabai and Narsinh Mehta became great devotees and that is because of their sheer faith and worship towards Lord Shree Krishna. Therefore, we should always cherish the idol image of the Lord in our mind and heart with utmost faith. Shuk Muni was one such great *Sadhu* and Muktanand Swami was also a great saint. In the scripture '*Bhagwat Gita*' it is stated, '***Shraddhavan Labhate Gyanam***'. Moreover, it is essential to be *Shraddhavan* to obtain emancipation in life.

There is an incident. One person thought about worshipping the Lord Shree Krishna. He brought one idol image of *Basindhar Swarup* of Lord Shree Krishna and started worshipping and offering all things which he had. He worshipped the image for six months but he could not get divine *Darshan* of the Lord Shree Krishna. After six months, he brought the idol image of the Lord Shree Rama and started performing *Poojan, Archan*. But it gave him no result. Then he brought the idol image of the Lord Shiva and started performing *Poojan, Archan* but again in vain. Now he was desolate. Meanwhile a friend came to his house. When the friend learnt all this from him, he advised him to bring the idol image of Mataji (goddess)

and perform *pooja*. The person rushed to the market brought the idol image of Mataji and started performing *poojan-archan* with great faith and worship. He had put aside the idol images of the Lord Shree Krishna on the self of the room. Now he thought, the beautiful fragrance of all offerings including incense stick should not reach to the idol image of the Lord Shree Krishna on the shelf. So he brought the flour of wheat from the kitchen and tried to fix in the nostrils of the idol image of the Lord Shree Krishna. While he was trying this, Lord Shree Krishna started laughing. The person was surprised and thought in his mind, 'When I was offering all things in my *poojan-archan*, there was no response but when I try to stop in this way with wheat-flour, the Lord Shree Krishna has granted me divine *Darshan!!!*'

Then Lord Shri Krishna laughed and said, '***Earlier you thought me as only idol image of a stone and therefore you could not get my divine Darshan. But when you changed your mindset and started thinking about me as Living and tried to fix wheat-flour in my nostrils, I also changed myself and granted you Darshan.***'

From the above incident, we understand that, we should not image any idol image as idol image of stone and it is possible only when we have ardent faith and *Bhakti* in our heart. Thus, *Shraddha* is base of *Bhakti*.

PATIENCE

- Parmar Bhumika Bhagwanjibhai
(Surat)

When any devotee or *Haribhakta* is passing through any difficult or critical

situation then he should keep patience. He should not get worried or angry or excited. He should not become impatient. Even the great saints and great devotees had to pass through such type of critical conditions in their life and it will come in our life, too.

In this *Kaliyug*, it is found that the people do not have any patience. The moment any difficulty or critical condition comes across in their life, they get worried and become impatient. They are found wandering here and there in search of happiness which is in fact within themselves.

Dear devotees, Sadguru Muktanand Swami, who is also known as 'Maa of *Satsang*', had to suffer the disease of Tuberculosis for eight years. Similarly Chaitanyanand Swami and Aksharanand Swami and Nrisinhanand Swami were also suffering from the disease of Hernia. Though perturbed with the eye-disease, Shri Nityanand Swami rendered great services to *Sampradaya* by writing many scriptures. Badrinathanand Swami and Mahanubhavanand Swami were suffering from paralysis. Similarly Brahmchari Vasudevanand Swai, Shantanand Swami, Hariharyanand Swami, Raghunathanand Swami were suffering from one or the other disease and physical ailments. Even the great devotees like Dada Khachar were suffering from the disease.

But this disease or physical ailments could not prevent these great saints and devotees from rendering their great services to *Sampradaya* and Shree Hari. We have to learn a lesson from these great saints and *Haribhaktas* and should not allow such ailments to disturb their worship and *Bhakti*.

BHAKTI

- Richa Sandip Choksi (Ahmedabad)

Jay Shree Swaminarayan to all devotees and *Haribhaktas*. Everyone has got trust in Almighty Lord but sometimes they are lacking in ardent *Bhakti* and firm faith. Real devotees of the Almighty Lord are so strong that they cannot be disturbed by anything. Time and again Almighty Lord incarnated on this earth, showed the noble and righteous path of worship and *Bhakti* and tried to remove all evil and wrong paths from the life of human beings through preaching and scriptures.

Katha : *Katha* is very divine whose benefit should be availed by all the devotees and *Haribhaktas*. There is great strength in *Katha*. It is way to get Moksha (emancipation) which includes Leela Charitra of Almighty Lord. *Katha* is so strong that, in one stroke it can absolve off sins of all devotees and can grant emancipation to all devotees and *Haribhaktas*, who avail its divine benefit. By listening to *Katha* and also after cherishing it in our mind, we can get emancipation in our life. Thus, *Katha* is very pious and it is a potent weapon of Almighty Lord.

Almighty Lord – An Introduction : Almighty Lord is the Supreme Authority and Controller of this world and this Universe. He is the Creator of this Universe. He is capable of removing all sins, all woes, all miseries from human life. He is One, who grants us intellect as well as thinking power. All living organisms on this earth are surviving just because of the blessings of Almighty Lord. Who takes care of the whole Universe as well as the small and tiny insects? Who is sung and described in the Vedas, the *Puranas* and other scriptures? Who grants divine *Darshan*? The answer to all these questions is 'He is Almighty Lord.'



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LEELA OF SHREE HARI

- Jankiben Rameshbhai (Naranpura)

When a devotee understands *Leela* and *Pradurbhav* of Almighty Lord, then he/she gets freedom from the cycle of birth-death and re-birth. There are many means to get *Moksha* (emancipation) in human life. And if one really understands *Leela* of Bhagwan from *Pradurbhav* to *Swadhamgaman*, then he is said to have achieved all the Means of *Bhakti*.

Shree Hari closed *Akshar-Auradi* and met Gopalanand Swami in Kariyani and told the saint that He wanted to return to *Swadham*. For one moment, Gopalanand Swami could not believe this, and the moment he understood the meaning of these utterance, he was perspiring. Shree Hari understood the seriousness of the talk so he changed the topic.

Due to weakness caused by sickness, Shree Hari did not attend any *Sabha*. Sometimes Shree Hari would not eat anything. Now everyone came to know about illness of Shree Hari and so devotees from all over the world thronged together in Gadhda. Shree Hari thought, these saints and devotees will not allow Him to return to *Swadham*. So again Shree Hari started attending *Sabha* and also eating the meals and tried to give an idea that now He was well. Under the directions of Shree Hari, the saints and devotees went away to their place. But Brahmanand Swami understood everything and so he did not move from there. When Shreeji Maharaj insisted him to go to Junagadh to take care of construction work of temple, Brahmanand Swami thought, ***'In my life, I have never disobeyed any direction of Shree Hari, and if now I will disobey Him, then I will remain unhappy throughout my life.'*** So

Brahmanand Swami consoled himself and started his journey towards Junagadh.

On *Jeth Sud-9 Samvat 1886*, Shree Hari called all saints, *Parshads*, both Acharya, *Sankhya Yogi* ladies devotees and leading *Haribhaktas* and directed them to attend the *Sabha*. All were surprised at this sudden calling of *Sabha*. In the *Sabha* Shree Hari said, ***'The purposes for which I came to this earth are now realized and therefore now I want to return to Swadham. However, I shall always remain present on this earth in these four forms : (1) the Lord Shree Narnarayandev (2) Acharya (3) Saints and (4) Scriptures. In this way, Dev, Acharya, Saint and Shastra are our four Swarup. Now I wish to return to Swadham. All the saints and Haribhaktas are requested not to commit suicide, because it would be disobeying the directions contained in the pious 'Shiksha Patri'.***

With these words there was pin drop silence in the whole *Sabha*. Nobody uttered any words. Shreeji Maharaj understood the seriousness of the matter and immediately dispersed the *Sabha*. The next day Shreeji Maharaj addressed the devotees and asked them to remain under the directions of Shri Gopalanand Swami, to perform *Nitya Nityam, Pooja, Path* and to worship Shree Hari. Then Shree Hari took the Seat on *Siddhasana* and started performing *Mala*. Shree Hari asked Muktanand Swami to take care of *Satsang*.

When Shree Hari returned to *Swadham*, all saints and *Haribhaktas* made all preparations of the rituals to be performed in Vedic tradition. Acharya Shri Raghuvirprasadji Maharaj and Shri Ayodhyaprasadji Maharaj performed the rituals. Shree Hari granted divine *Darshan*



to saints and *Haribhaktas* for 49 years, 02 months and 01 day on this earth.

ACCEPTANCE OF THAAL
- Patel Nisha Vishnubhai
(Gulabpurwala)

Once Shreeji Maharaj graced the village Vahelal for one day and then took leave of the devotee Jesingbhai. But the devotee ardently requested Shreeji Maharaj to stay for some time and said that, devotees of eighteen houses had obtained promise from him that Shree Hari will grace their house and would accept the meals. Therefore, Jesingbhai ardently requested Shreeji Maharaj to accept the invitation of all the 18 devotees and to accept the meals at their residence. Shreeji Maharaj said that then he will have to stay there for eighteen days.

Shreeji Maharaj smiled and asked the devotee Jesingbhai to send the message to all 18 devotees that Shreeji Maharaj will grace their residence and will accept their meals on the very same day. The message was conveyed and the meals were prepared by the ladies devotees of the village, who did not know to prepare the variety of meals. So *Ladu* (sweet balls) and other regular items were prepared by them.

Shreeji Maharaj told the devotee Jesingbhai that, as on that day, He had to grace the house and accept the meals of 18 devotees, in the meals only one *Ladu* will be accepted and nothing else and the great journey of grace of houses of the devotees started. When the message was conveyed to the second house that Shreeji Maharaj will accept only one *Ladu* in the meals, the lady devotee of that house prepared a very big *Ladu* by collecting three-four small *Ladus* and that big *Ladu* was offered to

Maharaj in the meals. Maharaj was surprised and asked the reason for such a big *Ladu*. The host devotee answered that, his wife belonged to the village and she did not understand much, what she believes that, she should offer as much as she can. Listening to this answer Shreeji Maharaj smiled and accepted the meals of one big *Ladu*. Thereafter houses of all the remaining devotees were graced and meals were accepted by Shree Hari.

Services of Medical Camp During Shree Swaminarayan Museum inauguration Mahotsav

Following activities undertaken during Medical Camp organized from 05/03/2011 to 09/03/2011 during inauguration celebration of Shree Swaminarayan Museum :

(1) From 05/03/2011 to 09/03/2011 in all about 1811 patient-*Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of Primary Public Health Centre.

(2) From 06/03/2011 to 09/03/2011, about 411 *Haribhaktas* participated in Blood Donation Camp.

(3) On 08/03/2011, about 430 *Haribhaktas* availed the benefit of diagnosis of diabetes in Diabetes Diagnosis Camp.

In this Medical Camp, following doctor-*Haribhaktas* rendered their beautiful services:

(1) Devotee Dr. Natubhai M. Patel (2) Devotee Dr. Rameshbhai Parikh (3) Devotee Dr. Kanubhai Patel (4) Devotee Dr. Hirenabhai Patel (5) Devotee Dr. Harshadbhai Bhagat (6) Devotee Dr. Pratik Thakkar (7) Devotee Dr. Shasankbhai Swaminarayan (8) Devotee Dr. Dashrathbhai patel (9) Devotee Dr. Nitaben Bhavsar (10) Devotee Dr. Hasmukhbhai Sarvaiya (11) Devotee Dr. Rushi Solanki

In Diabetes Diagnosis Camp, services were rendered by 'Health Centre' of Dr. Mayurbhai Patel.

Moreover, in the Blood Donation Camp, the Staff of the Civil Hospital Blood Bank and Cancer Hospital Blood Bank had rendered their beautiful services.



Special Services for 'Shree Swaminarayan' Magazine During Shree Swaminarayan Museum inauguration Mahotsav

With the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj and H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj, following *Haribhaktas* had rendered their special beautiful services during Shree Swaminarayan Museum Inauguration Mahotsav, so that more number of devotees and *Haribhaktas* can become Life Time Members of 'Shree Swaminarayan' Magazine with special concession.

(1) Devotee Shri Ramilaben Darji, Sadra (2) Devotee Shri Vishnubhai Patel, America (3) Devotee Akshar Nivasi Puriben Dahyabhai Butiya, Kaliyana (4) Devotee Shri Kuberbhai Butiya through devotee Dahyabhai, Kaliyana (5) Devotee Shri Bhikhubhai Jethubhai Mori, Kaliyana (6) Devotee Shri Rameshbhai 'Shailesh Paper Co., Ahmedabad' (7) Devotee Shri Arvindbhai Sindhbhai Patel, Ahmedabad (8) Devotee Shri Arvindbhai P. Thakkar, Shital Motors Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad (9) Devotee Shri Dahyabhai Shambhubhai Chaudhary, Manekpur Chaudhary (10) Devotee Shri Rekhaben Nareshbhai Bhavsar, Ahmedabad (11) Devotee Shri Harshaben Ganjawala, Ahmedabad (12) Devotee Sankhya Yogi Shri Rajkunvarba, Sankhya Yogi Shri Ushaba (old Swaminarayan temple, Morbi) (13) Shivkrupa Offset Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad (14) Devotee Shri Pravinbhai T. Patel, Shraddha Cassette Co. (15) Devotee Akshar Nivasi Madhuben Ravjibhai patel through Shri Vipulbhai Patel (Kubadthalwala) (16) Merm Positive through Shri Mahendrabhai, Ahmedabad. (17) Devotee Shri Shivabhai Chaudhary, Pratappura (18) Devotee Shri Jethabhai Savani, Kera-Kachchh (19) Devotee Shri Arvindbhai Somabhai Patel, Kokhasanwala (20) Devotee Shri Lalbhai Patel , Bhaupura (21) Devotee Shri Jirabhai Patel, Narayanpra-Kachchh (22) Devotee Shri Dhirubhai, Kumar Binders. (23) Devotee Shri Mukeshbhai K. Dangaarva- Kalol (24) Devotee Shri Bhimjibhai Tank, Bodkawala. (25) Devotee Shri Dipakbhai M. London (26) Devotee Shri Dharmesh C. Pate, Devotee Shri Jayesh D. Patel, Devotee Shri Mukesh G. Thakkar, Unjha (27) Devotee Shri Arjanbhai Govabhai Mori, Kaliyana (28) Devotee Shri Chimanlal Parshottamdas Patel, Bhat (29) Devotee Shri Babubhai Tank, Mira Road, Mumbai (30) N. Desai Paper Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad (31) Devotee Shri naynaben Ghanshyambhai patel, Uversadwala (32) Devotee Shri Chandraben Dineshbhai Patel, America (33) Devotee Shri Jayantibhai Patel, Bapunagar-Vadu (34) Devotee Shri Vishnubhai Bagat, Vadu-Kalol.

Our New Publications during Shree Swaminarayan Museum inauguration Mahotsav

With the directions of H.H. Shri Acharya 1008 Shri Koshalendraprasadji Maharaj and with the blessings of H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj Shri Tejendraprasadji Maharaj and with the inspiration of Mahant Sadguru Shastri Swami Harikrishnadasji and with the guidance of all the members of the Scheme Committee, following books and CD have been published by Shree Swaminaryana temple, Ahmedabad on the occasion of Shree Swaminarayan Museum inauguration Mahotsav.

- (1) Hajari Kirtanavali
- (2) Shree Narnarayandev in Vachanamrit' - MP-3 CD
- (3) Nitya Niyamavali- MP-3 CD

With the blessings and directions of H.H. Shri Acharya Maharaj and H.H. Shri Mota Maharaj the scripture containing all details and *Tithi of Pragatya and Leela Charitra* of Bhagwan Shree Swaminarayan '**Shree Swaminarayanam**' - by Shastri Nirgundasji, has also been published on this occasion. All this literature and cassettes are available in Sahitya Kendra of Ahmedabad temple.

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