



## S.K.S. SWAMINARAYAN TEMPLE (LONDON) – BAL YUVAK MANDAL

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### SHIKSHAPATRI BHASHYA SHLOK 24

**|| My devotees shall never abandon their own dharma (duties) prescribed by their own Varnashram. They shall not adopt other dharmas and shall not follow fictitious faiths. ||**

One should never abandon their own Varnashram dharma. Practice of your own dharma is thought to generate knowledge of god and devotion which ultimately relieves one from the cycle of birth and death. One who leaves their own dharma is consigned to the hellish regions and undergoes great suffering.

The personal religion of a kshatriya is a religion of others for a Brahmin and Brahmins are not suppose to practice that religion. In the Bhagwat God himself says to Uddhavji, one who is in the loka, if he follows his own Varnashram dharma and is pious and sin free, he gets the knowledge of God and devotion of god with God's pleasures.

Similarly an imaginary or hypocritical religion should not be practiced. As both are the branches of adharma. Bhagwat says that vidharma (anti-religion), pardharma (religion of others), Abhas (illusion), Upama (comparison) and Chhala (treachery) are the branches of adharma. One who knows the above religions, discards these forever as they lead one falling from the path of righteousness and Moksha (salvation).

Manu explains, one's own dharma is the best, even though it may seem to be devoid of qualities. It is important people follow the right dharma; they must follow the dharma in accordance with their caste and ashram.

#### **Questions:**

1. What is "dharma"?
2. Discuss the different Varnashram dharma's? (20-25 min discussion)
3. Where can you learn more about your own Varnashram Dharma?
4. Name a few devotees who fall into the four different Varnashram's?