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SHIKSHAPATRI BHASHYA SHLOK 34

|| *My male disciples shall never listen to the religious discourse given by females, nor enter into arguments with female rulers and courtiers* ||

Religious discourses should not be heard from females by males as men are less able to control their attractions and will not concentrate on the discourse. However, advice given by female family members such as your wife or mother should be listened to as they will give you advice for your own good and will do it out of love, wanting the best for you.

Our Shastras go to great depths to segregate the sexes as association leads the mind to wander and thus become weak, deluded and obsessive. Even those who have great knowledge of God find it difficult to find Akshardham as their eyes may fall upon a woman which can open the doorway to Narak (hell).

It is not advised that men enter into arguments with females, including wives, a Satsangi, an employer, an elder, the ill, a Guru, an Acharya, the learned (doctors etc) and children. These persons should always be respected and never insulted by having unnecessarily arguments. (Discuss consequences of entering into arguments with these people)

This is not to say women are second class as they are given equal footing in the Swaminarayan Sampradaya. It is just that they should not preach to men and direct knowledge towards other women.

Anger leads to himsa (refer to our earlier discussions on non-violence). Rather than using one's energy in pointless arguments that will lead you nowhere, why not use this precious energy on kirtans and devotional activities to please Maharaj.

DISCUSS:

1. Why should a lady not read Shastras or preach in front of men?
2. Why should men not argue with women?