



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

Westfield Lane, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 9EA Est. 1966 Charity Reg. No. 271034

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## SHIKSHAPATRI BHASHYA SHLOK 35

|| *One shall never insult a Guru, a person who is great, dignified, learned or armed* ||

Guru = destroyer of ignorance or darkness. The following people should be accepted as gurus:

1. An Acharya/ spiritual leader
2. One's father
3. One's elder brother
4. A king
5. A maternal uncle (mama)
6. One's father-in-law
7. A learned Brahmin
8. Maternal grandfather
9. Paternal grandfather
10. Best or highest in the community
11. A paternal uncle (kaka)

All sat-shastras have glorified the guru-shishya relationship and parampara (tradition). E.g. Arjun and Dronacharya (in the Mahabharat), Krishna and Sandipeeni.

Those students who insult their gurus or speak to them egotistically are reborn as demons in a land without water.

Bhagwan Rushabhdeva has said that those who serve great men (sat purusha), open themselves a doorway to heaven, and those who associate with women or even associate with men who have a tendency to associate with women, open themselves a doorway to hell. (Link to shlok 34)



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The sat-purusha has a level mind, is devoid of anger and a friend to all. Therefore, such revered men (saints, kings, dignified persons, or scholars) should never be ridiculed, disrespected or insulted. Note that this includes elderly, educated sudra caste members. To do so, would be inviting destruction upon yourself as they lose everything. After death, these disrespectful and insolent people are repeatedly tortured.

Insults can be direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional. It is said that either way to do so is no different to killing that person. It is also an insult to call an elder by name; it is for this reason that traditionally wives do not utter the names of their husbands. It is confirmed in the Satsangi Jivan that to call a husband by his name, reduces his ayusha (lifetime).

A tapasvi, snake, warrior or pativrata (who is this?), Brahmins, cows, a king, the elderly, the tired, a groom and a person driving should be given the right of way.

Swami has said that those who disrespect others are not worthy of respect themselves, and has compared them to beasts.

By serving and respecting these great people such as the elderly, saints and Brahmins, we are serving the Lord Himself. Respect to others brings humility in one's self and brings such a mentality which is rare in people these days.

The concept of this shloka is not difficult, and refers to mere human courtesy. Hence the Shikshapatri is not only a guide to living a religious life, but also a virtuous life. It is this respect that we have which sets us as Indians and Hindus apart from other communities. It is also the virtue that the western world admires because it lacks this in their society.



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