



**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 36

**|| One shall never perform duties pertaining to one's social affairs without careful consideration, where as duties pertaining to Dharma shall be performed immediately. Those who are learned shall impart their knowledge to others and shall always associate with saintly persons ||**

Social actions or affairs should be thought about clearly using one's intellect. You should only do things once you have discussed the matter with a sat-purush. Only properly thought out actions are considered positive and constructive. Problems in family, society and communities all too often exist because care wasn't taken in thinking through actions and the consequences.

Lord Swaminarayan also says 'karyo dharma satvaram' – Dharmic actions should be thought immediately without consideration. This is because Dharma is the only cause of reaching the heavens. As Dharma is a strong and faster force to the heavens it need not be questioned. Dharmic actions to be taken tomorrow should be done today as death waits for no one and their actions. Hence, to say that you are young and you'll do the Dharmic actions when you are older shows ignorance as death may not allow you to see tomorrow let alone your elder days.

Giving knowledge is important and is described by Shatanand Swami as the greatest donation of all along side the donations of cows and land. Vidyadaan (knowledge donation) will fulfil all desires.

The **14 great studies** are:

- 6 studies of physical nature
- 4 Vedas
- Dharmashastra
- Puranas
- Mimamsa (Vedantic philosophy)
- Tarka (logic)

It is from these that other topics and subject have evolved

The **3 greatest studies** are:

- Atma vidya (knowledge of the soul)
- Puran vidya (knowledge of the 18 Puranas written by Vyas muni)
- Dharmshastra vidhya (knowledge of dharma (including shrutis and smrutis))

We must be careful that we study the right things.



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In the Garuda purana the greatest knowledge of all is described as 'Brahmvidya' (knowledge of the supreme – GOD). Those who impart this knowledge bare the fruits of donating everything (sarvadaan).

Not all are worthy of Brahmvidya, Shatanand Swami says that such knowledge should be imparted to Naishtik Brahmchari's and those who are virtuous and disciplined. They should be rigorously tested to see whether the student is competent and worthy.

**(Discuss with members – we are in fact privileged to be getting knowledge of God even if it is only an hour a week! So why is it that we take this privilege for granted and do nothing with the knowledge?)**

Lagu Charnakya even goes as far as to say that it is better to die with such knowledge than to teach it to some bad natured fool of a disciple, as such a person is an enemy to all. Knowledge in the hands of such people is futile and unproductive. This includes people who criticise the teachings and look for ways to falsify and insult the knowledge, and also people who have the knowledge but do nothing with it e.g. if you know about the Ekadashi mahima, then you should do it. It's no good knowing the mahima of Ekadashi if you don't follow the rules shown.

Shatanand Swami also stresses the importance of sant samagam (association with saints). A sant is someone who follows svadharma (personal duties), is a bhakta of the Lord, controls his sense objects (panch vishay) and is atmanishta (knowledge of the soul).

Listening with your heart and ears to spiritual discourses from the mouth of a sant, leads to the path of salvation. Such association is so powerful and is illustrated in the story of Mukundas who associated with Ramanand Swami and became Muktanand Swami.

Satsang is for everyone and is a basic necessity. It is especially difficult for householders as they have their daily work. However, they should still make time to serve an Ekantik Bhakta **(who is this?)** or sant. Just as the sunlight gives vision to the eyes, a sant gives the vision of supreme knowledge.