



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

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

Tel: [020 8909 9899](tel:02089099899) Fax: [020 8909 9897](tel:02089099897) Email: bym@sksst.org

Shikshapatri Bhashya 39

॥ One shall never practice devotion to Lord Shree Krishna without observance of Dharma and shall never give up devotion to Shree Krishna for fear of being criticised by ignorant persons ॥

There is no Dharma without Bhakti and no Bhakti without Dharma. In other words both go hand in hand and as a Satsangi, one must partake in both to achieve the ultimate goal (i.e. to have Maharaj's Murti engraved in our hearts forever). To practice Bhakti without Dharma would render any Bhakti meaningless.

For example, Maharaj has stressed that we should all wake up before sunrise and bath in the morning. Practising this Dharma prepares us for the Bhakti we perform during pooja.

There are 9 types of Bhakti available to satsangis (Navdabhakti);

- Shravanam – listening to katha
- Kirtanam – singing bhajans and kirtans about Maharaj
- Smarnam – remembering and meditating upon the glory of God
- Paadsevan – doing seva at Maharaj's Lotus feet
- Archnam – doing seva of Maharaj's idol e.g. Aarti
- Vandnam – doing danvat
- Dassyam – accepting to serve God and dedicate all actions to Him
- Sakhayam – doing seva to the Lord as a friend
- Atmanivedanam – doing everything for the benefit of the soul

These bhakti's are not possible unless we follow the dharmas laid out by Maharaj in the Sat-shastras (**What are these?**). In order to do the Archnam bhakti one must do the nitya niyams (aarti, thaal, chesta etc) which is a dharma. If looked at the other way round by going to the mandir (a dharma prescribed by Maharaj) it is possible to practise the bhakti of Shravanam and Kirtanam.

In the Bhagwat Gita Lord Krishna affirms:

Yada Yada Hi Dharmasya Glanir Bhavati Bharat I

Abhusthanamdharmaasya Tadatmanam Srujamyaham II

Paritranayam Sadhunaam Vinashaiya Cha Dushkrutaam I



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Dharma Sanstharpanarthaiya Sambhavami Yuge Yuge II

“O Mother Earth! Whenever there is disobedience of Dharma and prevalence of Adharma (immoral duty), I incarnate upon this earth, I manifest to save Sadhu Purushas, destroy the sinful and to establish Dharma. I incarnate in all epochs of time (yugas).”

When God Himself is telling us the importance of upholding Dharma then who are we to question any different? Many people say that we don't have to worry about all the dharma etc; as if we are good people then God will take us to Akshardham. This is wrong in every manner possible! God has given us duties which we must practise, how can we expect to pass the exam with an A* if we haven't even sat the test!!

Those who renounce Dharma are considered enemies of God even if they chant His name because Dharma is the reason why Bhagwan transcends to earth. A true devotee is one who never waivers from the Varna-Ashram Dharma (**What is this?**), who sees both friend and foe alike, who never takes from anybody, who never hurts anybody, who never raises his voice to another and who has a peaceful disciplined mind.

- People who don't understand things or are closed minded tend to be ignorant, especially when it comes to religious beliefs. One who does not understand his own form is the most ignorant (Gadhada Pratham Prakran 20th Vachanamrut).
- Hence, due to a lack of understanding they criticise it in an effort to make themselves feel better or superior.
- This is a false sense of security they like to make for themselves because deep down they have no meaning in life and envy Satsangis like us who know exactly what life is all about.
- Hence to worry about people like that is a waste of the valuable time Bhagwan has given us.
- Ignorant people don't worry about criticism for going to clubs, parties, drinking etc; in fact they think it is fashionable and sociable and do this paap with pride.
- So why should we worry about what these paapi's have to say about us.
- Christians wear their cross, and Muslims wear their hijabs, Jews wear their head scarfs and small caps, Rastafarians grow dread locks, so why should we be any different when it comes to things like wearing Tilak Chandlo!!
- Maharaj has told us that to do ninda (criticise) of someone is one of the worst things anyone can do, and all the paap of the criticised will transfer to the criticiser! So in fact if someone criticises us, we should actually be grateful as they are lightening the burden of our paap!!!
- Do not forget that even if they do ninda of you, you must never stoop to their level and do ninda of them as all their avguns (bad habits) will eventually manifest in you (Gadhada Pratham Prakran 6th Vachanamrut).
- Have utmost Nishchay (faith) in Lord Swaminarayan and He will take all your troubles away from you. Take the critics on as a test and stand up to them to prove that you are better than them and are truly worthy of a place at Maharaj's Lotus feet.