



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

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Shikshapatri Bhashya 42

|| The Tilak shall be made with Gopichandan stick or with consecrated sandal paste mixed with Kum-Kum (saffron or red powder) duly offered to Lord Krishna ||

Gopichandan is a special type of mud and is famed in Dwarika. It is claimed that after Krishna Bhagwan returned to Golok, His wives fell and became one with the earth. This area is known as Gopi Tarava and this is where gopichandan can be found.

Alternatively, any other purified mud or paste can be used after it has been offered to God e.g. sandalwood.

It should be noted that gopichandan should not be used as a perfume for the body, during Sutak/Hutak, a wedding or when a child is born (**Dharma Pravati, Smrutisarasmuchai**).

Why offer to God first? Discuss

- Everything we use for ourselves should be offered to Bhagwan first.
- This includes clothes, food etc
- If it is not suitable for offerings to God then is it suitable for us? Essentially the answer to this should be no.

Shikshapatri Bhashya 43

|| In the centre of the Tilak, one shall make a Chandlo (round mark) of Gopichandan or Kum-Kum, which has been offered to Radha or Lakshmi ||

It is said that in order to please Lakshmi, devotees wear a chandlo. In doing so, they are showered with health. This shlok is aimed at males as it tells them to do the Urdvapandra tilak with a kum kum chandlo in the middle. It is also important that the chandlo is not too low or too high.

This is not only specific for Swaminarayan haribhaktas but all Vaishnavs.

Refresh last part of shloka 41 which discusses why people are ashamed to wear the tilak chandlo.

Discuss leela –Maharaj gave permission to paramhanso's not to wear the tilak chandlo because they were receptors of colossal injustices and discrimination.